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CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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EVERY TUESDAY — FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE — PRICE THREEPENCE

Tibet's Ambassador Goes Home

BACK TO THE FORBIDDEN CITY

A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD boy, the Dalai Lama, immured and closely guarded in the Potala palace at Lhasa, will soon be welcoming home his trade ambassador Tsepon Shakabpa, who has been travelling round the world on the first mission of its kind in all the long history of Tibet.

Tibet, the highest and most secluded region in the world, has always kept her life closely guarded from contacts with the outside world. Even today no foreigners are permitted inside the country except by special permission of one of the great Lamas who hold within their jurisdiction the power of life and death over the three million inhabitants.

Mr Shakabpa left home a year ago on the back of a mule, with suitcases strapped to a baggage mule. Dressed in Tibetan costume he struggled down the high passes from Tibet into India, and in Calcutta for the first time in his life saw some of the wonders of a modern city. There he put on a Western suit and set out by air for China, the United States, and Europe. In February he will be back in Lhasa to report.

Tibet wants modern equipment, and in Britain her ambassador was specially interested in small weaving and spinning machines which could be accommodated in homes. There is plenty of wool in Tibet, the mountain farmers each year producing great quantities which are carried on mule-back down to the manufacturing centres of China and North India.

Now Tibet would like to experiment with machines in the farm-house, making better cloth for her own people; and some of the things which Mr Shakabpa would like to sell in return are yaks' tails suitable for wigs and coat trimmings, musk for scent making, furs, and some rare jewellery. This is Tibet's bargain counter over which her trade ambassador talked to officials in Europe and America.

One of the ambassador's first duties on returning home will be to make a report to the officials in the Potala palace, which is really a vast monastery in which hundreds of priests maintain the Buddhist ceremonials round the Dalai Lama, who is considered to be the 14th incarnation of Buddha. Actually, the boy himself has little to do or say in practice, but seated on a low throne and dressed in rich brocade and yellow boots, he receives visitors.

For many years the Lhasa officials have been maintaining the independence of Tibet in face

Continued on page 2

Dobbin Got There First

A TRAIN bound for the West Country was slowly steaming out of a Liverpool station when a father and mother, glancing out of a carriage window, saw their lad's rocking-horse left behind. In the scramble to get their seats, they had forgotten poor Dobbin, and there he was still on the platform.

Nearly ten hours later, they arrived at journey's end down in Devon. To their utter amazement, when they alighted at the station Dobbin was there waiting for them!

BAREFOOTBALL

A TEAM of Nigerian footballers who play with bare feet have arranged to visit this country during the latter part of next August.

SPOOKY

Surprise For the Elephant Herd

A RHODESIAN and his wife, Captain and Mrs Bertie Celliers, were trekking through Southern Rhodesia recently when they came to a place where the natives told them that a herd of elephants had been wrecking huts and eating stores of mealies.

Captain and Mrs Celliers came upon the tracks of the elephants, but night was falling and they had to find somewhere to sleep. Finally they chose the top of an elevated knoll up which the weighty quadrupeds were not likely to come. They hung their double mosquito net from a tree and, thinking they were safe, left their rifles about 30 yards away.

Jungle Jinks

Early next morning, however, they were awakened by a bull elephant trampling noisily straight towards them. Silently they slid out of "bed" and took shelter some distance away. They saw the elephant wind his trunk round their mosquito net and mischievously tear it from the tree. But the net became entangled in his tusks and swung over his head. This threw father elephant into a panic and he rushed off to where his cows and calves were breakfasting.

The sight of this spooky-looking elephant so scared the others that they all dashed off as hard as they could go, crashing through the trees. The faster he ran, the faster they ran. The whole herd ran for 18 miles before father managed to lose his ghostly headgear.

R.L.S. Raced Down the Street

MISS MARGARET KIDD, the first woman to be created a King's Counsel, tells this good story about the office in Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, where she did her legal training.

An old partner of her firm knew Robert Louis Stevenson when he was training for the Law, and used to relate how R. L. S. and Lord Guthrie on their way home from Parliament House would forget all about the dignity of their profession and race down North Charlotte Street, with the tails of their frock-coats flowing out behind them and their top-hats perched on the back of their heads.

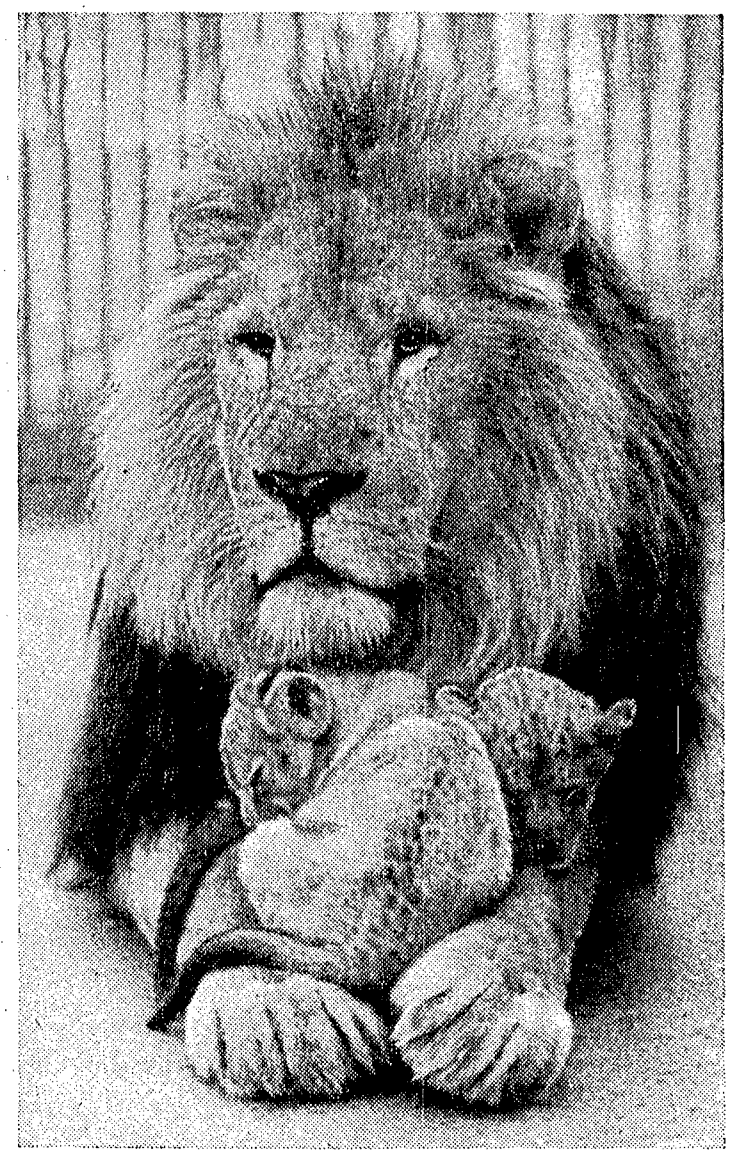
It is good to think that R. L. S., later to become such an invalid, was once so boisterous a student.

FLYING ELEPHANT

ELEPHANTS seem determined to push their ponderous way into the news these days. This time it is a five-year-old one, claimed as the first elephant ever to fly.

"Little" Miss Elephant—she weighs about 1000 lbs—came by plane to Paris not long ago from her home in Indo-China. When she left the plane she trumpeted ear-splittingly, either with gratitude for the trip or with joy at finding herself on solid ground again.

LIFE WITH FATHER



Lions do not as a rule make good fathers, but as our picture shows Singh proves an ideal parent to Nora and Tinto at the Glasgow Zoo.

Can a Dog Lose Its Memory?

FOLLOWING a letter in a Johannesburg newspaper from the distressed owner of a Scottish terrier which was run over by a car and does not now respond to her commands, or even seem to know her, animal lovers in South Africa have been discussing whether it is possible for a dog to lose its memory.

When an official of the Pretoria Zoological Gardens heard about it, he said it *was* possible for a dog to lose its memory in such circumstances, and one of the veterinary surgeons also consulted declared that a dog could lose its memory "just like a human being," adding that it was also likely that in time the dog would regain its memory.

Lost memory in a dog could be due to an injury to its brain, it was also explained. It is possible that some of the collarless dogs which are found from time to time have strayed far from their homes after temporarily losing their memory as the result of road accidents.

There is no doubt that most animals have memories. Van drivers have commented upon the alacrity with which a horse accomplishes its return journey after a day's work; it seems to know it is going to its stable.

Elephants, too, are said to possess excellent memories, though quite recently the belief that "elephants never forget," was questioned by a trainer. He declared that the elephant does sometimes forget, but he added: "They have very good brains."

Mr A. R. Siedentopf, who studied the habits of wild animals in Tanganyika forests for 15 years, published a book in 1947 in which he said that the idea that an elephant will never forget a wrong or harm done him is as fabulous as the cemeteries where elephants are supposed to go when they feel death is approaching.

BOW-WOW!

QUININE is the bark of a tree; canine is the bark of a dog.

Schoolboy howler quoted in Staplegrove (Taunton) parish magazine.

TRANSATLANTIC MODEL



This huge model of the Queen Elizabeth, 23 feet long and weighing seven tons, sailed for America last week—on board her namesake, the Cunard White Star liner.

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Mr Truman Revives the New Deal

THE new American Congress, or Parliament, is now in session, and President Truman's message to its members has probably aroused more interest throughout the world than any statement by him since he succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The reasons for this interest are clear. Only two months ago the people of the United States re-elected Mr Truman as President against all prediction to the contrary; but they also elected a Democratic majority in both houses of the Congress, which during the past two years was controlled by his Republican opponents. As most C N readers know, in the American system, unlike the British, the Government may have to put up with a hostile Congress and is not forced to resign or to dissolve the Legislature. In his new term, therefore, the President is assured of a friendly Congress until at least the end of 1950, when the next elections to the Congress are held.

Vast Programme

This fact is vital in assessing President Truman's speech, for in his message he suggested so many important and costly steps to improve the American system of social security, that only the existence of a friendly Congress can effect their realisation.

The message outlined a vast programme designed to bring a "fair deal" to all. The President in particular proposed that the minimum payment for one hour's work should be 3s 9d; that controls should be imposed to keep the cost of living low; and that laws should be passed to help the poor, the sick, and the children.

Mr Truman disclosed a grave picture of how some Americans still live. Five million families live in slums and not fewer than three million families have to share their homes with others. Proper medical care is so expensive that it is out of reach of the great majority of citizens. Millions of children are still not receiving a good education.

Commenting on these sad facts the President said: "Each of these shortcomings is also an opportunity. But our first great opportunity is to protect our economy against the evils of boom and bust." There is indeed no doubt that most Americans hold the same opinion. They know that with another crisis all their gains and prospects of improvement would disappear.

To carry out his programme the President foresees the taking of such steps as the control of credits and the allocation of materials, many of these measures being similar to those already taken in this country. Legislation is also proposed to make cheap houses available to all who need them.

The execution of his tremendous programme will, of course, require a large amount of money, and this the President proposes to obtain from new taxation. At present the Americans are not as heavily taxed as we are.

Faith in Democracy

Of foreign policy the President spoke but briefly, yet what he said was full of hope for the world. He insisted that his policy was the expression of American faith in democracy and that its aim was peace.

The 1949 Presidential message to Congress will long be remembered. With it, the stature of Mr Truman has again risen, and most of his fellow-countrymen hold that the New Deal, that great programme of social security first launched by President Roosevelt 17 years ago, has now been successfully revived.

Ambassador Goes Home

Continued from page 1

of Chinese claims of overlordship; in fact, on Chinese maps Tibet appears as Chinese. But Chinese trying to cross the Yangtse River into Tibet are generally stopped, and now that China's power is weakening Tibet is all the more anxious to have contacts with the outside world.

Does all this mean that the most closely-guarded, religiously-dominated country in the world is about to open its doors to the rest of the world? Probably not, for Tibet itself is not completely united. Lhasa is rivalled by Kumbum, the Buddhist centre in the north-west, where the Panchen Lama may have even more spiritual authority over Tibetans than the Dalai Lama. This small, bright-eyed boy of eleven, who lives in complete seclusion there, his only playthings three birds in cages and a small black Tibetan terrier called Little Lion, is in the careful tutelage of venerable monks whose policy is usually pro-Chinese.

Tibet is being carefully watched by China, India, and Russia, and what she will be in the years to come no one knows or is able to prophesy. But Mr Shakabpa's report may well be the most important word that has been whispered in the vast halls of the Potala palace for many generations.

Saxon Home Life

A FASCINATING glimpse of the lives of our pagan Saxon ancestors has been afforded by relics dug up from an ancient burial-ground discovered on Farthing Down, near Coulsdon, Surrey.

The skeleton of a child of about two, probably a boy, was found. When they buried this little fellow, in those far-off rude times, they placed beside him his well-loved toy iron spear, and there it was found. A child in another grave was probably a girl. Beneath her chin were found the coloured beads she used to wear, and someone, more than thirteen centuries ago, had placed a large decorated bead in her mouth when she was laid to rest.

The leg and ankle bones of a middle-aged man in another grave were found to be bent, probably because in his primitive home there were no chairs, and all his life he had squatted on his heels.

These relics are on view at the Guildhall Museum, London, until February.

US Secretary of State

MR DEAN ACHESON is an American statesman about whom we shall be hearing as much as we heard about Mr Marshall (of the Marshall Plan); for Mr Acheson has taken Mr Marshall's place as American Secretary of State, or Minister for Foreign Affairs.

He will be responsible, among many other duties, for carrying on the Marshall Plan, or European Recovery Programme, by which vast American aid is provided towards helping Europe to recover from the war. It was Mr Acheson who first suggested the Marshall Plan.

Mr Dean Acheson, who is a lawyer, was educated at Yale University and Harvard Law School. He is 55 and was Under-Secretary of State from 1945 to 1947.

YOUR OWN C N

WITH the increased demand for the 12-page C N it is more than ever necessary to place an order with your newsagent to reserve a copy each week. Newsagents cannot return unsold copies, so chance customers cannot be catered for with certainty.

Your Friend's C N

SOME of your friends may have had difficulty in obtaining the C N in the past. Will you please tell them that there are now copies available for all, but that *it is advisable to give an order to a newsagent to ensure regular delivery.*

Tomorrow's Citizens and Future Needs

IT was encouraging to see, at the Central Hall, Westminster, the other day, how the youth of today responds to a call for the crusading spirit. Several thousand schoolboys and girls cheered Sir Stafford Cripps when he said:

"It is the ultimate good of our people and the rest of the world which should decide our actions, not any short-term desire to help or advantage ourselves."

Sir Stafford was speaking at the final day of lectures for Tomorrow's Citizens, organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship. He continued: "Never in the history of the world has any generation lived in a more adventurous time, or one which was so full of opportunity for those who have the courage to follow the dictates of their consciences and to insist upon the true moral and religious values which alone can inspire humanity to a brave and just solution of its problems."

Earlier Sir Stafford had spoken of our own economic problem. "We are today just managing to keep our heads above water with a very large and generous help from the European Recovery Programme," he said, "but progressively over the next four years that help will diminish, and we must be able to stand on our own feet."

Jacqueline's Choice

AT a ceremony performed recently by the Colonial Secretary, Mr Creech Jones, the name African Enterprise was given to a Bristol Freighter aircraft which is to tour Africa. Ten-year-old Jacqueline Parsons of Bristol chose the name.

World News Reel

GOOD START. Australian students are educationally two years ahead of American students at Leaving Certificate age, according to two professors of a U S university who have been studying the education system in Australia.

Minimum wages for certain grades of workers, increases in pay, gratuities for long service, annual holidays with pay, overtime pay, and welfare measures, are granted in new regulations issued by the Government of Southern Rhodesia.

In northern Portugal the heaviest snowfall in living memory occurred not long ago. The snow was three feet deep.

New passenger ship record for the voyage from London to Fremantle, Western Australia, is claimed for the Orient liner Orcades—22 days, one hour, 50 minutes, at an average speed of just over 20 knots.

ATOM TIME. An atomic clock has been demonstrated in the United States. Its working is based on the vibration frequency of atoms in an ammonia molecule, and is expected to be more accurate than any other known method of measuring time.

In New England, the worst floods for 12 years have rendered over 2000 people homeless. Rain fell for three days on 20 inches of melted snow.

FLYCATCHER. A butterfly net to catch tsetse flies is used by an officer of the Uganda Tsetse Control Department. Natives holding an animal skin go with him into the bush, and when flies settle on the skin the officer nets them for the laboratory.

Aged 16, Robin Hooper has won the Junior Kandahar Ski Championship at Mürren, Switzerland. He lives at Great Hallingbury, Essex, but learned to ski in Canada while evacuated there.

"I REMEMBER." An ox to provide dinners for nearly 400 people is being sent by Mr William Parkinson, aged 86, from New Zealand to the Yorkshire mining village of Swinton, his birthplace.

Matron of Guy's Hospital from 1927 to 1946, Miss Emily MacManus is to tour Turkey in February, giving lectures on nursing in England.

Some of the British warships lent to the Soviet Navy in 1944 are to be returned this month, and others a little later. Among them is the battleship Royal Sovereign, renamed Archangelsk by the Russians. They were lent until captured Italian warships could be handed over to Russia.

As some haggis was being taken from an air liner at Chicago, headed by a piper, en route for the dinner of the Illinois St Andrew's Society, the proceedings were televised.

Home News Reel

NEAR THING. A section of rail, one foot long, broke into pieces at Stafford station just after the Royal Scot express had passed it at 60 m p h.

A chess player who lost a bishop at the recent International Chess Congress at Hastings snapped his jaws so hard that he broke his false teeth.

The number of children, 75, killed on the roads during November 1948 was the lowest for the month for many years; 62 of them were pedestrians and eight were cyclists. Altogether 412 people were killed, 64 fewer than in the same month of 1947.

People of Bognor Regis, Sussex, have subscribed enough to save the lives of four old dust-cart horses, Dolly, Drummer, Sailor, and Peter, which were to have been slaughtered when the Council mechanised the dust-carts. The four will spend the rest of their lives in a home for old horses.

LIKES POLICEMEN. A cross-bred Alsatian dog named Punch, of Southend, is so fond of policemen that he spends hours with them on their beats, has meals in their canteen, and only returns home occasionally to sleep.

The Lifeboat Service rescued 531 people during 1948, and no lifeboatman lost his life. Four won medals for gallantry.

BUSY YARDS. At the beginning of this year British shipbuilders had a record number of orders—4,500,000 tons of merchant ships, in value about £325,000,000.

Coventry, worst-bombed city in the Midlands, has been given a Number One priority by the Ministry of Works to spend £1,500,000 on rebuilding the city centre.

GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. People in Barnes, London, who wish to befriend old people living in their neighbourhood, put in their front windows a card bearing the letters G N (Good Neighbour). The Barnes Old People's Welfare Committee devised the scheme.

Labour Exchange officers are to have a week in Durham pits to learn something of mining problems.

Visitors to London Zoo last year totalled 2,335,539; this was 55,532 more than in 1947.

North-east Surrey Education authorities have decided to name a new nursery school at Upper Mitcham the Peter Pan School.

Youth News Reel

WELL RESCUE. When a workman was overcome by poisoned air in a 60-foot well, Air Scout Ronnie Jones of St Elizabeth, Jamaica, went down with a rope which he fixed to the unconscious man. Ronnie has been awarded the Scout Bronze Cross for his gallantry.

Patrol Leader Denis Wise of the 3rd Southend-on-Sea Group has received the Scout Gilt Cross for his gallant rescue of two boys from drowning in a lake.

IN THE WILDS. In visiting the many new Guide Companies and Brownie Packs which have been formed in Western Australia recently the full-time Country Trainer has travelled far and wide, covering many miles by rail, air, bus, and even on milk or cream trucks.

British Red Cross Cadets at Gerrans in Cornwall have a local School First Aid Box, and during 1948 they dealt with no fewer than 53 casualties.

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Whoops!
An expert skier performs a difficult feat at Sun Valley, Idaho.

Speedy Cyclist

THE National Cyclists Union's coveted annual trophy for the Best All-Rounder among road cyclists has been awarded to Peter Beardsmore, of the Medway Wheelers Club, for his fine performances during 1948.

During all his many races and time trials last summer, Beardsmore, a 26-year-old Sheerness boilermaker, averaged just over 22½ miles an hour, and his rides included the most outstanding time of the year for 50 miles and 100 miles. He then attacked the 12-hour record, and covered 246.92 miles.

Beardsmore had a terrific tussle with Albert Derbyshire, of the Calleva R C, who had won the trophy the two previous years; there was a difference of only .036 miles an hour in their average speed for all rides throughout the summer!

QUIZ CHAMPIONS

EDINBURGH'S Royal High School quiz team, champions of Great Britain in the "Top of the Form" radio contest, have since defeated a team representing the Lycée Henri Quatre school in Paris.

The victorious quartette, Karl Miller, John Robson, Anthony Inglis, and Derek Pringle, were chosen to represent their school on the results of a series of general knowledge tests set by Mr H. MacIver, the principal English master of the Royal High School.

"Reading," says Mr MacIver, "is what makes a quiz expert. The characteristic of all the Edinburgh team is their great capacity for reading and acquiring knowledge. They have been reading widely for years."

300 Years of Microscopes

AN Exhibition of the history of the microscope is open at the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, 28 Portman Square, London. A selection from the Museum's collection of about 1000 microscopes, dating from the middle of the 17th century to the end of the 19th, are on view, and visitors may look through them at slides.

The development of the microscope has been going on for over 300 years, and the Exhibition illustrates the invention of the compound microscope about 1590 which is generally attributed to Hans and Zacharias Janssen, spectacle-makers of Middelburg in Holland.

WIRELESS ON THE RAILWAY

BRITISH Railways are to carry out tests in using wireless for certain railway operations. For example, the use of wireless will be tested during shunting work in marshalling yards. By means of it drivers of shunting engines should be able to communicate quickly and easily with the control tower and with railwaymen on the ground.

The use of wireless will also be tried when many men are employed on extensive repairs to the track. It often happens at present that when a foreman wishes to give directions to some of his men he has to walk right to the other end of the stretch where the work is being carried out. The walkie-talkie should obviate this and make for efficiency, and safety, too.

Wireless will also be used by officials at goods stations to communicate with drivers of railway road vans out on their rounds, in the same way as the officers in police stations are able to call up policemen patrolling in cars.

ANOTHER TEST RECORD

FOLLOWING the breaking of the world's first-wicket partnership record by Hutton and Washbrook, and the second-wicket partnership by Nimbalkar and Bhandarkar, as reported in last week's C N, comes another world cricket record.

Playing for the West Indies in the Third Test Match against India, Everton Weekes, the 24-year-old all-rounder, followed his 162 in the first innings with 101 in the second innings, his fifth consecutive Test century.

The previous record of successive Test centuries was jointly held by Jack Fingleton, of Australia and Alan Melville, of South Africa.

Exploring Forbidden Valleys

EXPLORING the wild and lofty reaches of the Karnali River valley, territory normally forbidden to white men, is the Nepal Expedition which set out in the autumn to study all forms of wild life in Nepal, the little-known country north of India.

Sponsored by the National Geographic Society of America together with the Yale University and the Smithsonian Institution, this expedition arrived in Calcutta last autumn and reached Katmandu, the capital of Nepal, in mid-November. There the leader, Dr Dillon Ripley, had a private audience with the reigning Maharaja, and obtained permission to enter the forbidden Karnali River and Sun Kosi valleys.

The first part of the exploration covered the central valleys around Katmandu and parts of the Terai, the only territories into which Western visitors are customarily admitted. Returning to Katmandu in early December for the formal Durbar ceremonies, the expedition set out again on December 6, proceeding westward to Kauriala Pass, the railhead where Nepal's Karnali River crosses the border and becomes India's Gogra River, tributary to the Ganges.

From here Dr Ripley proposed to travel up the "forbidden" Karnali River valley by lorry to the Siwalik foothills, and thence onwards with the aid of coolie porters. It is expected that the scientists will camp south of the snow line, in the verdant lower reaches of the valley.

GIANT SUNFISH

ONE of the biggest sunfish ever caught round the British Isles was washed ashore on the North Suffolk coast recently during heavy storms.

Thought to have come from the North Atlantic, it weighed six hundredweight and was six-and-a-half feet long. An interesting feature of this monster is its tiny mouth.

Ship's Link With Aborigines

PROUDEST possession of the captain and crew of the destroyer H M A S Arunta is a water-colour of Mount Sonder, in the MacDonnell Ranges, Central Australia.

Presented to the ship's company by Albert Namatjira, Aboriginal artist from the Arunta tribe, it depicts the vivid colours of the mountain scenery of Australia's desert centre, and it is treasured as a lasting link with a famous tribe and an equally famous Australian.

Lost Property Office



A SCHOOLBOYS' dream has come true in St Louis, Missouri, where an American outfitting store has just installed a blackboard for amusement only and a milk bar continually serving chocolate-flavoured milk drinks without any cost!

The milk bar is built of plywood and is decorated with a brightly-coloured canopy. When the lucky St Louis boys drink their free milk they actually sit on reconverted milk cans. For their added amusement a blackboard and chalks have been provided. Strategically situated near the entrance, boys who visit the shop with their parents cannot fail to see the milk bar. The store says that if parents lose their boys the management always know where to find them!

FOR HEADS ONLY

A GAME which many young footballers would find very helpful to their training is being played next month at Eltham, in South London, by two of London's leading soccer teams, Charlton Athletic and Arsenal.

Head Tennis, as the game is called, requires only a football and a net, rigged up at the height of a badminton net. The game is to head the ball over the net into the opponent's court, a point being scored by a team each time its opponents let the ball touch the ground. A team usually consists of five players, and 21 points make a game. The hands must not touch the ball except when starting each point, but the feet may be used by a player to lift the ball onto his own or a team mate's head.

Head Tennis is included in the training of many of Britain's professional football teams.

Somewhere to Play

CHILDREN in overcrowded Paddington, London, are proud of their Peter Pan Club, which is the name of the Save the Children Fund Junior Club there; 65 of them belong to it.

Many of them live in old Victorian houses, originally built for one family, but now having a separate family on each floor. There is no room for play in these houses, parks and recreation grounds are a long way off; playing in the street is not much fun, so the Peter Pan Club is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Noreen Goodson, Assistant Warden of the Club, founded the Denys Goodson Trust, in memory of her husband, and through this Trust, twenty-six and a half acres of land have been acquired at Hawkspur, near Thaxted, Essex, where the Peter Pans and others can go for camping holidays.



SKATING ON THE FROZEN CANAL IN THE VILLAGE OF VOLENDAM, IN HOLLAND

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Waterworks Magic

Most people at some time or other must have seen one of the men from the local waterworks, or gasworks, walking up and down the road, or even in somebody's garden, using an instrument similar to the one shown in the photograph below. And most people, no doubt, have been puzzled.

Well, it is a special instrument used to locate and trace metal pipes buried underground. The operator has with him what is known as a Vibrator, which is actually a buzzer operated by dry batteries. It is connected on one side to a point on the pipe to be traced, and on the other side to a steel prober pushed into the ground. This forms what is known as an electrical "field."

The Silent Clue

When the Vibrator is switched on, the operator, holding his search coil flat, as in the picture, can hear the vibrations in his earphone anywhere within that "field." When, however, he gets the search coil above the pipe he wants to trace there is dead silence in the earphone. This makes it easy for him to track the line of the pipe from the point of connection to the main in the road, and also along the main itself. It is also possible by using the search coil at an angle to the line of the pipe to gauge the depth of the pipe under the ground.

These instruments are very useful for tracing pipes in case of leakage, for purposes of extensions, or for preparing plans showing the line of pipes to given premises, and obviously they save much time and labour, for without them it would become necessary to open the ground and dig along until the course of the pipe was found.

Finding the Box

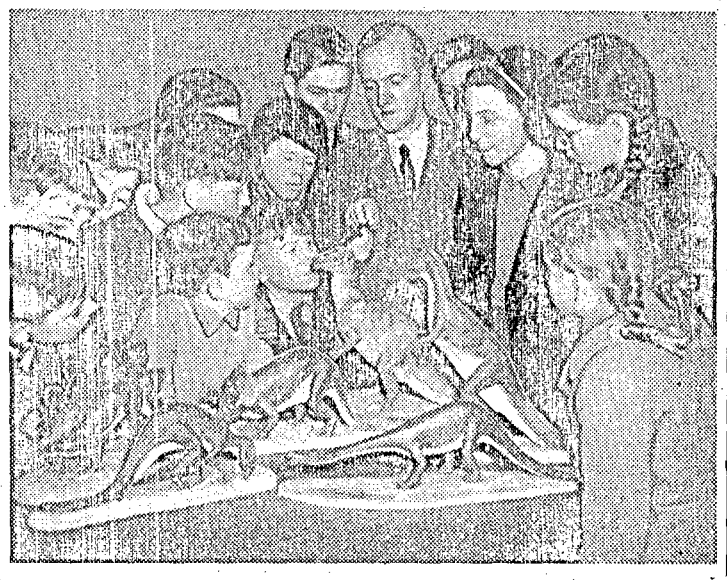
By the turn of a switch this apparatus is converted into what is known as a "Box-finder"—used to locate iron valve boxes, stop-cock boxes, manhole covers, in fact any metal object that has been buried. When the search coil is held over the locality of the buried box a loud howl is heard in the earphone. In this manner the same instrument is used at sawmills for detecting pieces of metal buried in baulks of timber.

Similar search is sometimes carried out with a large square frame aerial, but the principle and the results are the same in either case.



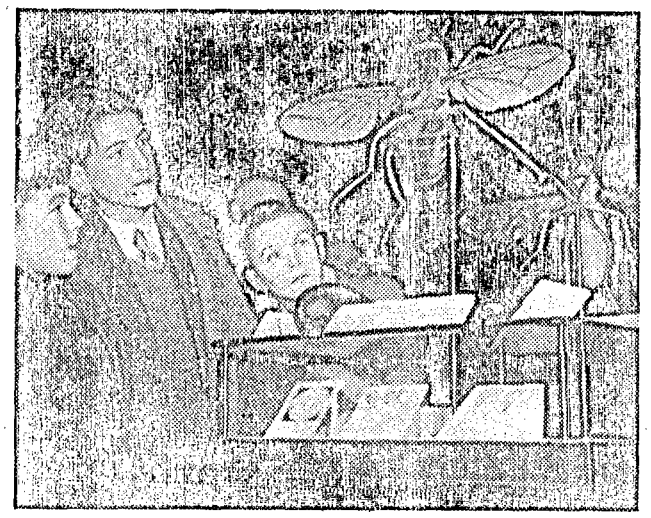
The Vibrator at work

By courtesy of Cinema-Television Ltd.



Midget Monsters and Monster Midgets

In the picture above a party of children at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, are attending a lecture illustrated by models of giant prehistoric creatures. The boys on the right are inspecting models twenty-eight times bigger than life-size of the tsetse fly, the great scourge of African cattle, whose ravages may be conquered by the newly-discovered British drug Antrycide.



Rays That Reach the Deepest Mine

A research station may be built at the bottom of the deepest and hottest pit in Britain—the Parsonage Pit at Leigh, Lancashire, which is 4050 feet deep—if the National Coal Board agree to proposals put forward by scientists,

Professor P. M. S. Blackett of Manchester University, one of Britain's foremost atomic scientists and winner of the Nobel Prize, has suggested the building of the research station so that the Earth's magnetism at great depths can be studied, and cosmic ray penetration measured.

Professor Blackett also wishes to start cosmic ray experiments in Chestergate Tunnel, Stockport's wartime shelter for 20,000 people 40 feet down under the busy shopping centre. Stockport councillors have been assured that there will be no danger to people living on top of the tunnel. Dr G. D. Rochester, a colleague of Professor Blackett, stated that there would be nothing more lethal in the tunnel than instruments for observing cosmic rays and an instrument known as the Wilson Cloud Chamber for photographing these rays.

In addition to these proposed sites for experiments, Professor Blackett is also making cosmic ray tests on the ground, and in the air with an R A F Mosquito plane. At Manchester University airborne instruments have been prepared for detecting, counting, and photographing cosmic particles at great heights

From the Heights

This equipment is in a two-ton bomb casing which is carried in the Mosquito's bomb-bay. Cosmic rays are being intercepted at heights of 30,000 to 40,000 feet and automatically record the information which the scientists want.

The source of cosmic rays is still a mystery. They originate outside the Earth's atmosphere, which they are continually bombarding. They are many times more penetrating than the rays given off by radio-active substances because the wave-length of cosmic rays is extremely short—about 100,000-millionth of an inch. They are so small, in fact, that in their bombardment of the Earth and everything on it, their collisions with particles of matter are very infrequent. Our bodies are practically "transparent" to them, and they go through the Earth's surface like a bullet through plywood.

In the Depths

One object of the proposed research station 4050 feet down the Parsonage Pit at Leigh is to find out just how far cosmic rays *can* penetrate the Earth's surface.

Because they are the shortest and most penetrating rays yet discovered they are ideally suited to atomic research and are likely to play an important part in the future development of atomic power.

Cosmic rays increase in intensity as we rise above the Earth's surface, and at 18,000 feet their activity is forty times as great as at sea level. They do not come from the Earth, nor from the Sun, for their power at night is no less than by day, and even a total eclipse of the Sun does nothing to decrease their intensity. To prevent the rays from reaching us at ground level, nothing would suffice short of enclosing ourselves in a windowless lead chamber having walls, floor, and ceiling many yards thick.

All over the world scientists are seeking the origin of cosmic rays and the stupendous energy with which they are endowed.

Remote Worlds With Ten Suns

By the C N Astronomer

On any dark and clear night during the next three months we shall have a good opportunity for peering very far into the depths of space at one of the marvels of the Heavens. The famous astronomer Lalande once said of this spectacle: "Nothing but a sight of the object itself can convey an adequate idea of its exquisite beauty"—that is, of course, as seen through a powerful telescope.

The object is a glorious congregation of suns generally known by its old title "Messier 35," which means that it is No 35 in the first Catalogue of Star Clusters and Nebulae compiled by the astronomer Messier in 1784. This great star-cluster may be readily located by means of the bright star Eta-in-Gemini, which appeared on the star-map in the C N of December 25, and on an enlarged scale (as seen through glasses) in the issue of January 8.

Messier 36 *appears* to be at present about four times the Moon's width away to the north-east of Eta; but whereas the star Eta is about 250 light-years' journey away, the distance of this grand cluster averages 2600 light-years' journey. It is therefore so very far away from us that all the naked eye can glimpse is its radiance, a faint and somewhat triangular patch of misty light about two-thirds as wide as the Moon. Glasses will greatly aid in revealing definite details and, if they are powerful ones, sparkling points of light may be glimpsed.

The biggest telescopes and the marvellous revelations of the spectroscope show thousands of brilliant suns, many of various colours which indicate their age. Some are reddish comparable with Betelgeuse, Antares, and Arcturus in immensity. Others are bluish owing to their intense surface-heat, like many Orion suns. There are many white helium suns resembling Sirius, and multitudes of yellow suns such as ours. All these are there, together with innumerable worlds, and worlds in the making; thousands and thousands of objects all radiant with every kind of energy, a tiny portion of which enters our eyes as we look at that far-off patch of radiant light.

So vast is this collection of stars that it would take a ray of light between 40 and 50 years to cross the tiny triangular patch of sparkling points shown in a small telescope. But only a comparative few of the brightest stars are perceptible in a small telescope; the numbers grow with each increase of telescopic power, and doubtless there are many thousands of them.

The inhabitants of any world in their midst would have a sky lit up with at least ten suns, and with such brilliance that a world up there may have a continuous radiance approaching perpetual day. G. F. M.

Vril, the Wonder-Worker

Atomic Energy Foreseen

Not for many a day, say the experts, will atomic energy be a safe driving force for cars or planes—if ever. Nevertheless, it will help mankind in countless other ways, and if the scientists have their way may ultimately prove an incalculable blessing.

It is interesting to remember that atomic energy, with all its awe-inspiring powers for good or evil, was anticipated by the Victorian novelist, Bulwer Lytton. In his "Coming Race" he wrote of a people who have lived for ages underground and have invented a substance called Vril.

This is a form of energy embodying all the natural forces, and is both a weapon and a source of power for all the loftiest purposes of life. Its possessor has but to point a Vril-charged arm at an offender and the offender ceases to exist.

So terrible as well as beneficial is the power of Vril that men fear to do ill and live in perpetual peace. Consequently, a very high form of civilisation has developed among these people who dwell remote from the nations of the worried earth that know not Vril.

It is 78 years since Lytton dreamed his dream of a wonder-working energy, a force that can compel men to dwell together in peace. In less than that number of years ahead it will surely be known if atomic energy is Science's realisation of that dream.

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Peking, Dream City of Asia

With the whole of China and its future in the melting-pot interest centres once more on Peking, the war-torn country's picturesque former capital, which has been enduring a close siege by the Communist forces and may be destined to undergo yet another transition.

ONLY three years ago the Japanese left Peking (or Peiping), having failed to carry out their plan of building two new Pekings—a residential one and an industrial one. So the old city remains much as it was in the 60's of last century, when foreigners first came to it and were entranced by the glories of the Winter and the Summer Palaces.



Shopping expedition in Peking

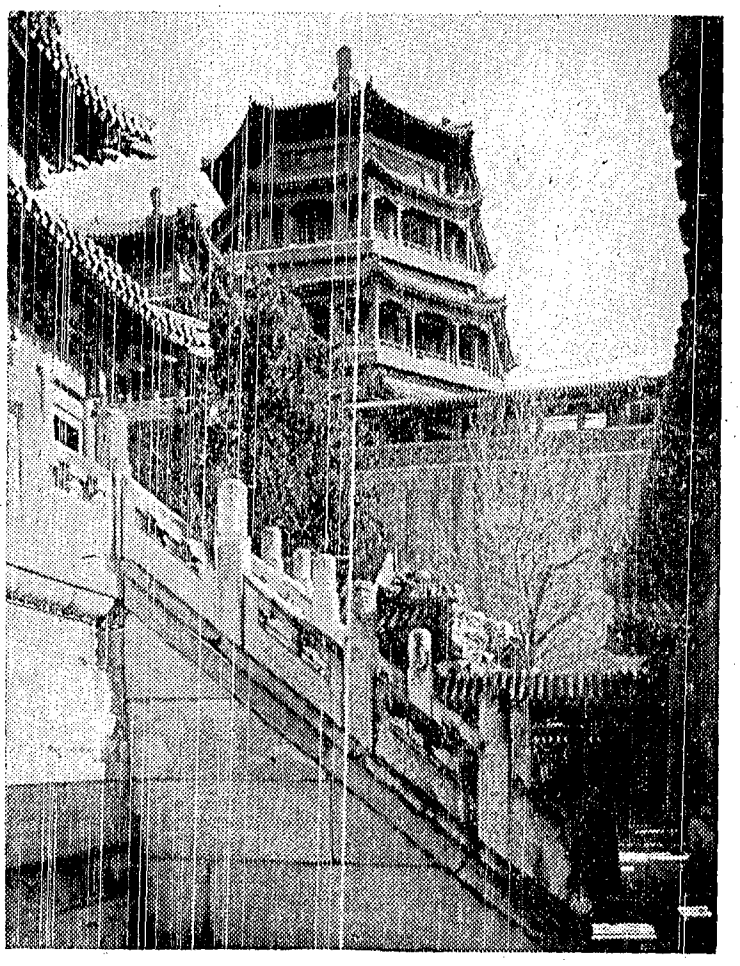
Below : The pagoda in the Summer Palace

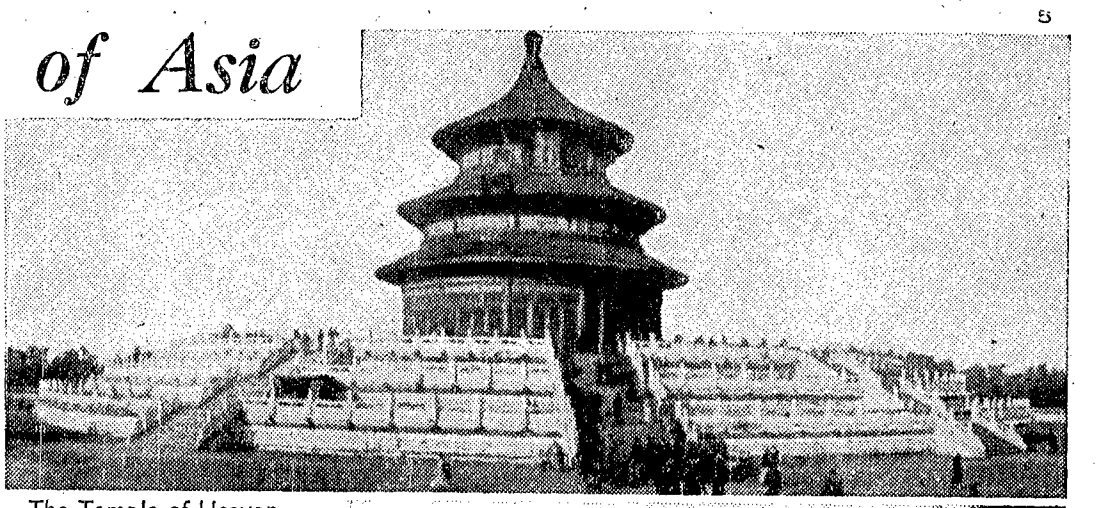
Peking was built by the Tartar and Mongol conquerors of China in the 12th century, and that accounts for its broad streets which run at right angles to one another and are so unlike the narrow and crooked streets of most Chinese cities. The straggling character of the city has always made it a popular place for the rickshaw puller, now replaced by the "pedi-cab" puller, who operates a vehicle rather like a tricycle, with the passenger sitting behind the driver. There are said to be 80,000 of the pullers.

PEKING has one of the finest and most complete city walls in China, with massive gateways through which the camel trains from Mongolia formerly passed with silks and merchandise.

But the special charm which makes Peking the most visited city in China is in its parks and lakes and small temples leading up to the palaces of the old royal dynasty.

The Summer Palace, with its encrusted mosaics, wide terraces, blended colours, and air of faded glories, is visited by thousands of Young Chinese; and they see reflected in it some of their country's former pomp and grandeur, in much the same way as young visitors to Hampton Court Palace can glimpse the spaciousness and splendour of Tudor days in Britain.





The Temple of Heaven

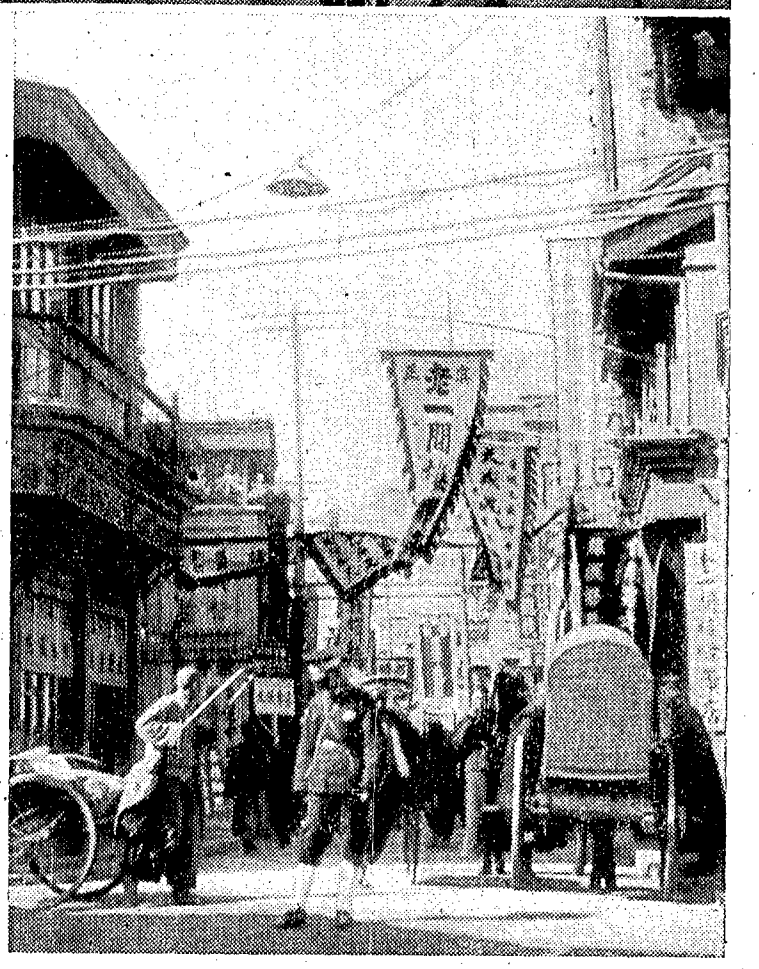
A LONDON girl, now living in Peking, has told a *C N* correspondent that one of the loveliest excursions is to walk beyond the walls into the Peking countryside, and take your food to a wayside temple on a hill from where the city can be seen —its towers, pinnacles, and red roofs glowing in the sun; its green hills covered with fresh grass after a shower of rain and seeming to flow right up to the city walls.

Two beautiful buildings in Peking have a very special interest for British people. One of them is the Yenching University, in which many British teachers have worked. Built in the Chinese style, with graceful gardens, but with modern interiors, Yenching has educated some of the best Chinese, who want their country to have a settled, stable government.

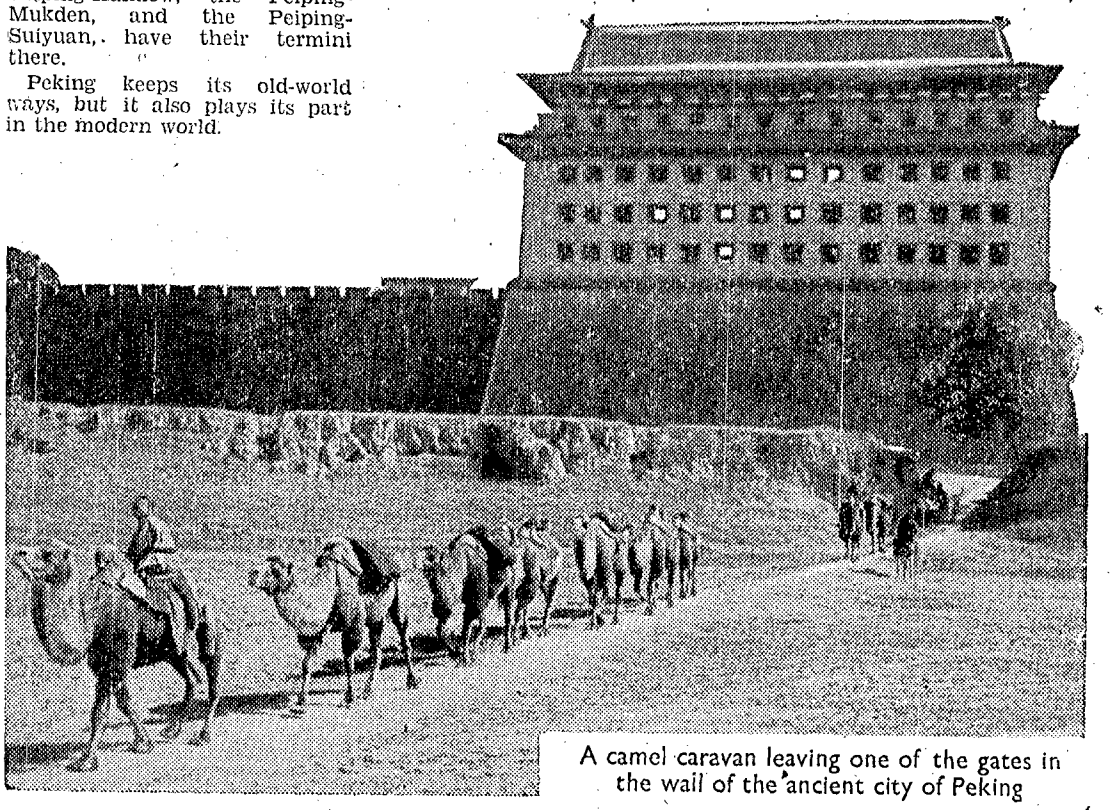
THE other building is the Union Medical College, which began in the 80's of the last century as a simple dispensary of the London Missionary Society. Then in 1915 Mr Rockefeller endowed it with £2,000,000, and since then the great school has trained more doctors than any other college in Asia.

This ancient city was the capital of China from 1403 until 1928, and is still one of China's greatest cities, having a population of about 1,688,000. It is a railway centre, and three of China's principal railways, the Peiping-Hankow, the Peiping-Mukden, and the Peiping-Suiyuan, have their termini there.

Peking keeps its old-world ways, but it also plays its part in the modern world.

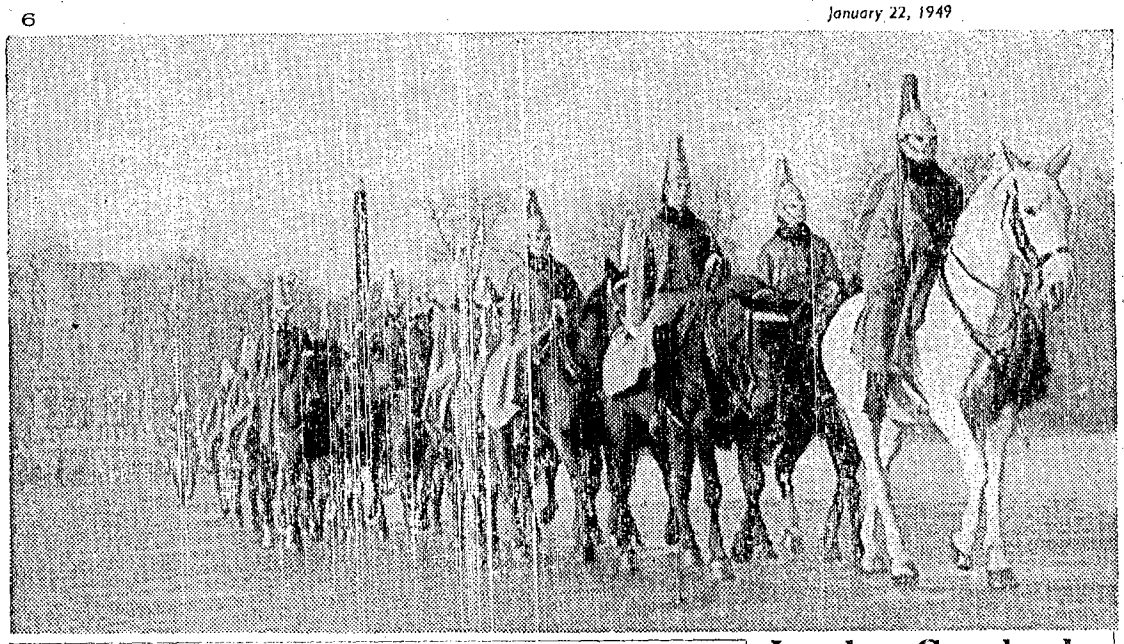


A busy street scene in Peking



A camel caravan leaving one of the gates in the wall of the ancient city of Peking

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London Cavalcade
The Life Guards bring a flash of colour to London as they ride across Horse Guards Parade.

Muscular Housewives

PHYSICAL training is becoming increasingly popular with housewives in Sweden. Our own mothers might, perhaps, think the Swedes lucky to have any energy left for it; but the general idea seems to be that an hour's PT a week gives a housewife more strength to carry on the daily round.

There are in Sweden 30,000 housewives between the ages of 20 and 70 (energetic grannies) who belong to gymnastic groups and look forward to the weekly PT hour as a relaxation from household work and troubles. They pay special attention to exercises strengthening the back and feet, the parts of the body most strained in household work—conditioning the washing-up muscles. Perhaps if we could persuade our own mothers to go in for PT they would grow strong enough to do the drying as well as the washing-up—but probably it is not worth suggesting the idea.

Next summer 5000 of these Swedish muscular mothers are to give a giant demonstration of physical exercises at Stockholm as part of the great gymnastic display known as the Lingiad.

Foreign visitors to the Lingiad will also see children of four and five carrying out their own sort of gymnastics. These northern little people, dancing in spontaneous rhythm to music, without commands, show how they enjoy their version of PT and how, at the same time, they learn something of the true spirit of gymnastics—alertness, and the discipline and control of bodily movements.

The Swedes are the pioneers of PT, for it was a Swede, Pehr Henrik Ling, who, at the beginning of the last century, invented physical exercises without apparatus. From Sweden this method of exercise gradually spread over the whole world, and was known to our grandfathers as "Swedish drill."

How to See the Woodland Folk

WATCHING wild animals is an enthralling hobby, but it needs patience and expert knowledge. Recently Mr Brian Vesey-FitzGerald described some of his own experiences when he spoke to the School Nature Study Union in London.

Keep still and see life, appears to be the rule. Mr Vesey-FitzGerald said that if you get the wind in the right direction—so as not to carry your scent to the timid creatures—it is possible to watch the delightful scene of a vixen playing with her cubs, or even to see the old boar badger going out for a quiet walk.

When he was sleeping on Dunkery Beacon (the highest point on Exmoor) the shy red deer, apparently not believing that humans ever slept out, approached him to find out what he was. When he had lain quite still and wrapped up in a mackintosh, hedgehogs had crawled over him and mice had nibbled his fingers.

About the theory that bats emit tiny squeaks and are guided in flight by their echoes, a kind of radar, Mr Vesey-FitzGerald had some interesting things to say. He had netted bats at their holes in beech trees and then blocked up the holes with cardboard. But the bats, on being released, collided with the cardboard as they tried to return to their homes. He thinks there must be something more than natural "radar" to account for the behaviour of bats.

Roses For Friendship

THE citizens of Paris have just contributed £300 for the restoration of a rose garden in the Belgian city of Ghent. Thousands of roses will be planted this spring, and it is hoped that the garden will be in full bloom for an International Flower Exhibition to be held in Ghent in 1950.

Altogether, some 40 varieties are to be selected, from the most recent productions of the specialist to the old-fashioned roses with their strong sweet scent.

Actually, Paris has been responsible for this Ghent garden since 1913. In that year the City of Paris established it for a flower exhibition, but during the First World War it was neglected. The Paris Council restored it in 1930, and it thrived until 1940. Now, once again, after the Second World War, it is to proclaim its message of friendship with flowers.

HUNTING THE GHOST

IN Blackburn, Lancashire, they are going to try to photograph a ghost—if they can get permission. The spectre of the "White Lady" is said to haunt the 300-year-old Elizabethan mansion known as Samlesbury Hall, and it is reputed to have been seen recently by three people who were taking part in the dress rehearsal of a play which was to be performed in the hall.

Eight local men, "The Friends of Samlesbury Hall," who are governors of the mansion, are to be asked whether they will grant permission for the ghost to be "photographed."

According to legend the "White Lady" is the ghost of the beautiful Lady Dorothy Southworth who died of a broken heart after her lover had been murdered in Samlesbury Hall. Special attention will be paid by the photographer to a gloomy staircase at the end of a dark passage leading to the minstrel's gallery, supposed to be a favourite haunting-place of the ghost.

Samlesbury Hall is well known as a folklore museum for the district, and its spacious main hall is often used, too, for wedding parties, dances, and other social functions.

Postman's Pet



The postman at Molland in Devonshire sometimes has his pet red deer fawn to accompany him on his rounds.

The Editor's Table

DUTIES BEFORE RIGHTS

TOO many people are demanding their rights, and not thinking enough of their duties—this is the Archbishop of Canterbury's conclusion as he looks at the pattern of life in Britain today. It is a chastening reflection, and the Archbishop undoubtedly meant it to be so in order to set the nation thinking.

That a large number of people should think of their rights and privileges before their duties is an understandable fault in weak human nature—belief that "number one" should come first. But, as the Archbishop says, "To think more of rights than of duties is corrupting; it leads men, in the end, to exaggerate their rights and to forget their duties."

BEFORE any man insists on his own rights he should pause and think of the rights and privileges of the other man; and he should remember, too, that often he will be "the other man." Before anyone boasts of his rights he should look to the way he is carrying out his duties.

A happy social life can only continue in a community where duties, obligations, and service come first; the smallest and most precious unit of association we know—the family—is founded on this conception. So in any sphere of human affairs rights must never march without duty and service at their head.

Beauty, strength, youth, are flowers but fading seen;
Duty, faith, love, are roots, and ever green.

DUTIES before Rights! This gives Britain a watchword which strikes the heart of all true living. To hold fast to it is within everyone's power. It calls for honest self-examination to begin with, and an unfaltering determination to set duty first—always!

For Orphans From Europe

SET in nine acres of parkland at Turramurra, on the outskirts of Sydney, the Princess Juliana Sanatorium, used by Dutch seamen and others during the war, is to become Australia's centre for the accommodation of European war orphans sent to her for adoption. The building and land have been bought for that purpose by the Federal Government. The centre has room for about 80 children.

At Turramurra big-hearted Australia, ever ready to extend the hand of friendship and assistance to those less fortunate than her own citizens, will care for her new charges in her own splendid way.

This will mean that hundreds of unfortunate children will grow up to be healthy Australians in a continent which urgently needs more good men and women for tomorrow.

WIDER EDUCATION

THE wisdom of fixing 16 as minimum age for taking external examination from 1(onwards has been much discus during the holidays. The cha man of the Society for Resear in Education, Mr J. How Whitehouse, defended the Min ter's decision on the groun that boys would thus be able acquire a wide knowledge a consequent love of literature.

Headmaster R. W. Hill point out that this age limit ignor the pupil's progressive ment development, and that the bc brains and the best personaliti should be free to come to the to like cream on the milk. Assi tant Master R. P. Trueblo feared that specialisation migl creep farther down a school.

This, Mr Tomlinson stated a conference, should not happe before a pupil is 16. It was travesty of education to let child of 15 concentrate on course which can leave him witl out any real understanding of tl world in which he lives.

He hoped that the new exan ination would be used near th end of his schooldays to test pupil in some of the non-specialis as well as the specialist subjects

Beloved Jester

BRITAIN has suffered a sad los in the death of that princ of funny men, Tommy Handley He delighted probably mor people than any other comedia in our times. Every week up t 20 million listened to his cheer ful nonsense. He was everybody' jester; the Royal Family seldom missed ITMA, children were al lowed to "stay up" to listen t Tommy Handley. He was more than just a "comic"; he brightened our lives in difficult years, often saved us from being downhearted, gave us courage to bear our burdens.

JUST AN IDEA

As Shakespeare wrote, If all the year were playing holidays, To sport would be as tedious as to work.

Under the E

IT is easy to plan to be generous in the future. And not in the mean time.

⊡

A NEW historical novel has many tense situations. Past tense, of course.

⊡

SOME people like to have letters after their name. So are always changing their address.

⊡

AN old man says he has never had a day's illness. How long did they last?



NEVER use water on a mirror, says a writer. A matter for reflection.

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MAKE SURE THE ICE WILL BEAR

ε season when we may expect fun on the ice is here, but sad to record that already boy has lost his life because kating on ice that was not ng enough. This happened a colliery pond at Annfield n, Durham. The boy, George er, aged 14, was drowned le heroically trying to rescue brother Edward, aged nine,) had fallen through the ice. vard was rescued by a young ıe-worker, John Pendleton,) dived into the pond.

ce will bear the weight of a n when it is 1½ inches thick ut of one man in that parti- ır place. To bear a crowd, the must be much thicker. People not allowed to go on the ice the Serpentine, Hyde Park, il it is five inches thick over whole of the lake.

Before venturing to slide or ıte on a frozen pond, or any ıer sheet of water, it is well find out from someone who ows whether it is safe.

Self-Denial and Hard Work

RITAIN'S struggle to make ends meet is still a hard one, the Archbishop of Canterbury ıphasised recently. He said at England's record since the ar had been magnificent. "In ıe war we gave all we had. ow we have to borrow to keep. ping. If we go all out, we ınnot expect to make ends ıeet again before 1952."

Meanwhile, there is reason for ptimism. Encouraging words bout us have been spoken in ther countries. Australians were old, not long ago, by the U K ligh Commissioner that Britain's ntire adverse dollar balance will e cancelled within the next four ears if the present rate of im- rovement is maintained.

More hard work will put us quare on our own feet again, nd then we shall have more eason than ever before to be proud people.

THINGS SAID

AT my home in Somerset I have a small electric railway. I do not get full value out of it because, as a grandfather, I am not supposed to play with it unless there is a small boy or girl with me.

Admiral Sir James Somerville

WEED-KILLERS are the greatest practical contribution that science has made to British agriculture in the last ten years.

Director of the Norfolk Agricultural Station

THERE must be physicians to help the sorely wounded world, and the nations indicated for the task are the United States and the British Commonwealth. *Dr Gilbert Murray*

IT is monstrous to expect to do much about behaviour when classes consist of 30 to 50. Behaviour should be learnt at home.

Sir William Hamilton Fyfe

TYRANT NICOTINE

WHAT slaves some people become to tobacco was well illustrated some time ago by a tribe of 60 Australian Aborigines who walked 400 miles to get more tobacco when their supplies ran out. The natives—men, women, and children—arrived at Darwin in the Northern Territory after a four-month journey.

They had first of all gone to a mission station 250 miles from Darwin, but finding the missionaries had no tobacco they set out for far-away Darwin. In the course of their journey they had swum crocodile-infested rivers, the men swimming on the outside of the women and children and keeping away the crocodiles with their spears.

They had left their own hunting grounds, faced death, and travelled to what was for them a strange country—all for a smoke. Their ancestors in the days before the white men came were lucky; they never had to worry about tobacco.

DESTINY

THE threads our hands in blindness spin
No self-determined plan weaves in;
The shuttle of the unseen powers
Works out a pattern not as ours.

Ah, small the choice of him who sings
What sound shall leave the smitten strings;
Fate holds and guides the hand of Art;
The singer's is the servant's part.

Through wish, resolve, and act, our will
Is moved by undreamed forces still;
And no man measures in advance
His strength in untried circumstance.

As streams take hue from shade and sun,
As runs the life the song must run;
But, glad or sad, to his good end
God grant the varying notes may tend! *Whittier*

itor's Table

PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If some students only study their own comfort



SOME people object to a basement flat. Think others look down on them.

⊡

MORE sugar is on the way. Who spilt it?

⊡

FEWER young men are going into banks. There must be more of no account.

⊡

SOME people are always changing their minds. But don't seem to get better ones.

⊡

A CORRESPONDENT says he will be glad when he has a roof of his own. Hasn't he one in his mouth?



His Portrait

Bobby Henrey, the young film actor, with a drawing of himself at the Save the Children Fund exhibition of child portraiture in London.

Through the Mud

A BRITISH engineer, Mr George E. Bennett, has flown to British Guiana in South America to find out whether it is possible to dredge a channel through the mud bar on the Colony's chief river, the Essequibo.

This barrier of mud prevents vessels of any size sailing up the river from the sea, and the Colony's products have to be carried over the bar in shallow-draught boats. If a channel were cut ocean-going vessels could sail through to places on the lower reaches of the Essequibo and carry away cargoes at much lower freight rates.

This would aid the development of the Colony's hardwood timber trade, for in the forests of British Guiana are great quantities of hardwood trees whose timber is much in demand, especially in the U S A.

Mr Bennett has gone to the Colony as one result of the recommendations of a Commission of Inquiry which reported on the extent to which British Guiana and British Honduras (farther north, in Central America) could take some of the surplus population of the West Indies. The population of the British West Indian islands is about 2,250,000, whereas the combined population of British Guiana and British Honduras is less than 500,000.

The report advised that an immediate start should be made in exploiting the valuable timber of British Guiana.

Antarctica in Its True Colours

How many of the people who see the new film Scott of the Antarctic, and are thrilled and moved by the epic story of those heroic companions who never returned, know that the pictures which one of them himself painted in the Far South can be seen by all? They are Dr Wilson's pictures, hanging in an upper room of the Polar Research Institute in Cambridge.

What do most of us imagine the Antarctic to be like? Surely mile after mile of dead white snow, glassy ice, and a grey-white sky? But such an idea is immediately corrected by a visit to the Institute and half an hour with Dr Wilson's water-colours, bright even on the dullest day.

Edward Wilson—Uncle Bill as the others called him—risked eyesight and frost-bitten hands to record the amazing Antarctic colourings, for true colours cannot be seen through snow-glasses and it is impossible to paint in clumsy, thick fur gloves. "We were encased lightly in ice about the shoulders, loins, and feet," wrote Commander Evans. B-rrr!

Well, the results of Uncle Bill's determination to show his countrymen what the Antarctic really looks like are patches of miniature splendour. There are paintings of iridescent clouds, like waving rainbow ribbons, clouds that have been described as "streamers playing in the Heavens." There is a picture called Frost Smoke, all blues and flames and glowing inky-purple. There is painting after painting of azure ice against emerald seas and orange-red sunset skies. Truly, the Antarctic is colourful beyond our imaginings.

Dr Wilson's pictures are not, of course, the only things to be seen at the Polar Research Institute. The visitor can step over polar bearskins, and make his way downstairs to rooms full of such things as husky-harness, and Eskimo tents and clothing.

He can see, too, objects of more poignant interest—Captain Oates' sleeping-bag with a side split to make more room for his poor frost-bitten leg; the primus stove on which that brave party melted ice for drinking water; a copy of the South Polar Times, the newspaper made by the party for its own entertainment, opened at the page on which Uncle Bill had painted a special menu for their Midwinter Day dinner.

There is also a pencilled letter, written by Scott as he and his companions lay dying in that tent on the Great Ice Barrier. It is to Uncle Bill's wife. "If this letter reaches you Bill and I will have gone out together. We are very near it now, and I should like you to know how splendid he was at the end . . . His eyes have a comfortable blue look of hope, and his mind is peaceful with the satisfaction of his faith in regarding trouble as part of the great scheme by the Almighty"

Brave words, from the bravest of the brave! No one can read them and not feel humble.

CONGO FALLS TO DRIVE RAILWAYS

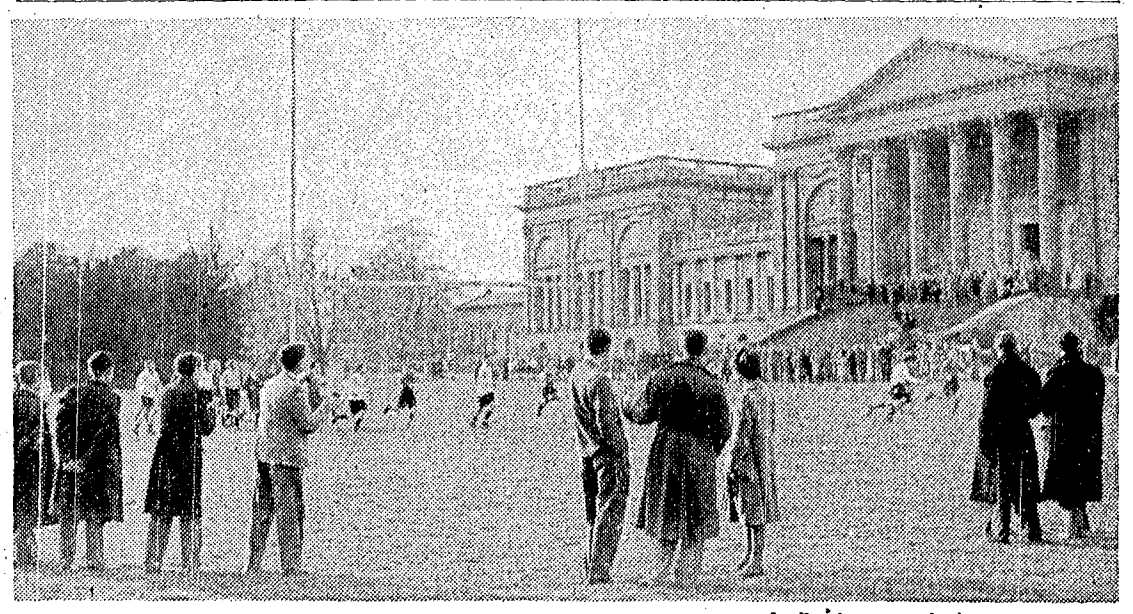
THE natives of the Congo can expect a big surprise in the not-too-distant future for, according to a recent announcement from the Belgian Minister for the Colonies, certain railways in the vast territory are to be electrified.

The first stage, which is to be put in hand immediately, will be to electrify the 200 miles of existing steam-line between Mataudi, at the mouth of the mighty Congo River, and Leopoldville, situated farther upstream at a thousand feet above sea-level. The hydro-electric energy will come from the falls and rapids which are a feature of this stretch of the river.

Later the railway will be extended across country to Port Francqui, which has already a rail connection with Cape Town.

Plans also exist to complete the gaps in the trans-continental system which will eventually connect the West African ports with the East African ports of Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam.

It is expected that one section of this line will start from Stanleyville, on the Congo River.



THIS ENGLAND

A Rugby match in progress at Stowe School in Buckinghamshire

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Queer Bird on Inaccessible

Making a Film of the Flightless Rail

A flightless bird that is almost as rare as the New Zealand Takahe, about which the C N wrote a few weeks ago, is found only on Inaccessible Island, an uninhabited islet in the South Atlantic, near Tristan da Cunha. It was described in a recent letter to The Times by Mr Irving B. Gane, who is Hon Secretary of the Tristan da Cunha Fund.

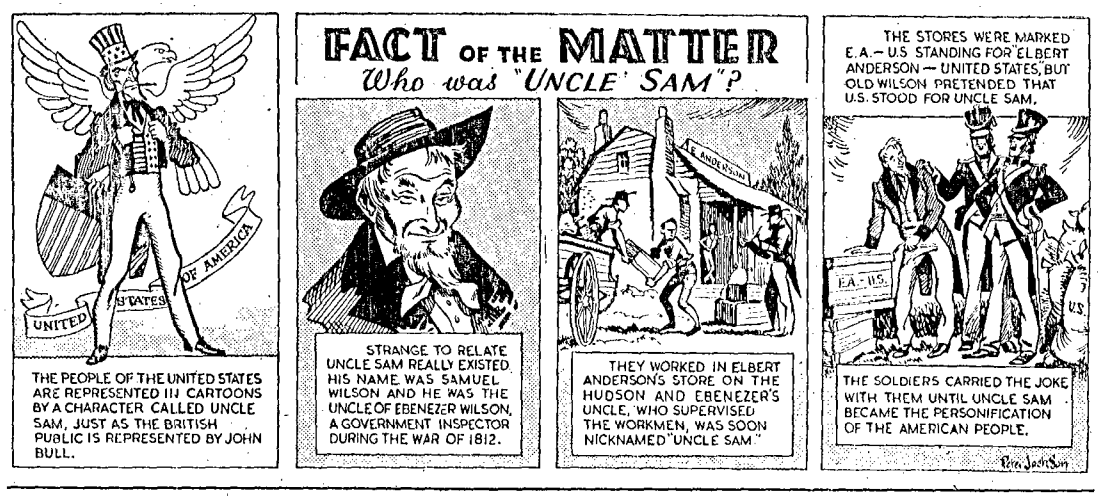
The bird of Inaccessible is a flightless rail called Atlantisia rogersi, after the late Revd Henry Martyn Rogers, chaplain at Tristan da Cunha, who obtained the first specimens for England, which are now in the Natural History Museum.

Feathered Treasure

Not long ago the commercial expedition to Tristan da Cunha filmed these rare birds, showing them running swiftly across the sand and darting in and out of the holes under fallen rocks in which they live.

When the first specimens arrived here heavy prices were offered for more and, naturally, the islanders of Tristan, who are far from rich, were tempted to go across to Inaccessible Island in their frail boats to catch them. If this had happened the flightless rails might soon have become extinct, and it says much for the good folk of Tristan that they agreed to leave this natural treasure alone.

Meanwhile, there has come good news indeed for the future of these islanders. The project of establishing a fish canning factory on their island is now to become a reality, an agreement having been signed between the Colonial Office and the Lambert's Bay Canning Company of South Africa. The managing director of the enterprise, the Revd C. P. Lawrence, is expected to leave from Cape Town for the island at the end of this month. He was for two years chaplain on Tristan and returns to carry out this work of raising the level of life on Tristan da Cunha.



These Creatures Shoot Their Foes

Naturalists who have been investigating the bird life of the lesser islands of Great Britain have made at least one surprising discovery.

Bird-watchers have long known that the fulmar, biggest of our petrels, and now making its home in over 100 places in this land, has the power of ejecting from its mouth a stream of offensive oil full at its foes. What the latest close study of British birds reveals is the astonishing fact that mere nestling fulmars, only a fortnight old, can perform this same feat with force and accuracy, an amazing defence for an undeveloped seabird to have at its command when an intruder unversed in fulmar habits unwarily approaches its nest.

In its defensive methods the fulmar has no rival among British creatures; for such we have to seek abroad. It is true that the British toad, squeezed by the jaws of a dog, secretes an acid that makes its captor, with scalded mouth, glad to release it; but that does not involve marksmanship, as is the case with a Californian lizard which has by some means come to be called the horned toad.

Not until recent years was it discovered that these creatures when in danger eject a jet of crimson fluid resembling blood, first from one eye and then from the other, or even from both eyes together. The fluid springs from a gland adjoining the eye, not from the actual eyeball itself.

A more formidable shot is the spitting snake of South Africa, for the liquid battery here is charged with snake venom. The target is the face when a human being is concerned, with the eye a favourite spot. The poison causes extreme pain, and temporary blindness, and dogs so attacked are said never to recover their sight if the poison enters their eyes.

Birds and reptiles are not the only marksmen, however; one of the most interesting of all is the archer fish, a native of fresh-water and sea in the East Indies, Australasia, and Malaya. As insects flit over the water in which the fish is swimming, up comes a jet of fluid from its mouth, and down falls the insect for its lunch; even insects at rest on plants 15 feet away are brought down by this extraordinary marksmanship.

Fifteen Miles a Minute!

A rocket-propelled plane, only 12 feet long, has attained a speed of nearly 900 m p h. Off the Cornish coast it flew at a height of 30,000 feet, where the speed of sound is about 660 m p h.

The little plane was first carried up under a Mosquito aircraft and then released to be controlled by its automatic pilot. Radar tracked it during its flight, and its own instrument readings were transmitted to the ground and recorded by a device in the Scilly Isles. Then it plunged into the sea as planned.

The Ministry of Supply are carrying out a series of tests with these miniature robot planes to discover the best design for aircraft flying at supersonic speeds.

Bad-Tempered Bee

Schoolboys of Market Rasen have had a difficult year with their bees. The chairman of the Bee-keeping Company, fifteen-year-old Frank Rawson, explained this when he apologised to the shareholders for reducing their annual dividends from 125 per cent to 100 per cent.

He spoke of the trouble caused in one hive by a queen bee with a nasty temper. When the boys went to collect the honey, all the bees in this hive seemed to go mad and flew out. Eventually chloroform was given to the hive and, while the bees slept, the honey was extracted. At the same time the bad-tempered old queen bee was removed and a young, good-tempered queen installed in her place.

The young bee-keepers are looking forward to an increased dividend for 1949.

Wild Life Must Not Perish

Protection For Birds and Animals

Young natural historians were greatly interested the other day in a talk by Dr M. Burton at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, on Protecting Animals from Dying Out. Dr Burton had beside him stuffed specimens of animals that once roamed our land, a bear, a wolf, and a beaver, and he explained why they died out. The process, he said, is unhappily still going on. Fish in our rivers are dying out because the water is polluted by waste products from factories and cities. There is the hope, however, that they will return if these evil conditions can be removed.

How wild things will return to a locality was shown during the war near Pevensey, Sussex, where a new marsh was allowed to form as a defence in case of invasion. The Nazis never came, but black tern came there to nest instead!

What is Being Done

In Africa, said Dr Burton, wild life is also in danger from the encroachments of civilisation, and many species would die out in the next 50 years if nothing were done for their preservation. What is being done the lecturer illustrated by films of national parks and other preserving activities.

How beavers are being preserved in Canada, for example, was dramatically shown. Beavers do useful work there because the dams they build in streams control floods and improve irrigation. But it often happens that beavers are in danger of dying out in a particular locality. Such places are replenished by beavers brought from regions where they are still plentiful. The young audience at the Museum saw in a film Cree Indians trapping beavers alive and unhurt in Algonquin Park, and other Indians releasing the furry—and damp—little prisoners at James Bay, 700 miles away.

Another film showed how a voluntary Canadian organisation, appropriately called Ducks Unlimited, helps to increase the numbers of wild ducks.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures



The drumming grew louder and Alice, terrified, ran away. She ran on until a Red Knight came galloping towards her. "You're my prisoner!" he cried, and tumbled off his horse. Then a White Knight arrived and also fell off his horse. "She's *my* prisoner," said the Red Knight. "But I rescued her!" replied the other. "We must fight for her," said the Red Knight. "You will observe the Rules of Battle?"



As they fought Alice wondered what the rules were. "One seems to be," she thought, "that if a Knight hits the other he knocks him off his horse, and if he misses he tumbles off himself—and they hold their clubs like Punch and Judy. What a noise they make! Like fire-irons falling into the fender!" The battle ended when they both fell off. They shook hands and the Red Knight rode away.



The White Knight smiled gently at Alice and showed her the things on his saddle. "This is a very good bee-hive," he explained. "But not a single bee has come near it yet. And this is a mouse-trap. I suppose the mice keep the bees out—or the bees keep the mice out." Alice replied, "I was wondering what the mouse-trap was for. It isn't very likely there would be any mice on the horse's back."



"Not very likely, perhaps," said the Knight, "but if they *do* come, I don't choose to have them running all about. It's as well to be provided for *everything*. That's why the horse has anklets round his feet." Alice asked, "But what are they for?" The Knight replied. "To guard against the bites of sharks. It's my own invention. And now help me on, I'll go with you to the end of the wood."

How Will Alice Fare With This Strange Gentle Knight? See Next Week's Instalment

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UNITY IN THE MAKING

Two Questions of Citizenship

PARLIAMENTARY lawyers throughout the English-speaking Dominions of the Commonwealth will no doubt look back upon 1949 and say it caused them more headaches than any other year, writes the C N Parliamentary Correspondent.

For instance, Canadians are preparing to welcome Newfoundland, the oldest "child" in our British family, into the Confederation. Newfoundland, if all goes according to plan, is to become Canada's tenth province.

This political and economic union will come about on March 31, provided all parties to the change can agree upon the terms. Apart from Newfoundland herself, both the United Kingdom and Canadian Parliaments will be asked to pass laws giving effect to the new constitutional plan.

Canada's Parliament will meet on January 26, and the Government will take the unusual course of bringing in its "union" Bill even before the debate on the Speech from the Throne, which normally starts a new session.

Opposition to Union

Similar proposals are expected to come before our own M Ps.

Though everything appears settled, there are some Newfoundlanders who want her to have her own free Parliament again—a view which, most probably, will find sympathetic supporters at Westminster in the coming months.

Against this will be opposed the view that Newfoundland will have a more prosperous future under the wing of her larger sister-Dominion.

But the lawyers' troubles do not stop there. The decision of Eire to leave the Commonwealth and become a republic seems bound to have echoes not only in Britain but in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, which also have large Irish populations.

Before that decision was known, our M Ps at Westminster defined the position of Eire citizens in a new way under the British Nationality Act, passed last summer. And since the decision was known our Governmen have decided not to regard Irishmen in Britain as "foreigners."

A New Situation

The Opposition therefore believe a new situation has been created, and the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Jowitt, has conceded that some "minor modifications" in the Nationality Act may be necessary soon. At the same time he has pointed out that no major change will be necessary such as would be required if our Government were now to say that Eire citizens *are* aliens.

That much settled, other questions arise. The problem of military service for Irishmen and of future Irish-born M Ps in relation to the oath of allegiance to the King, to say nothing of the Empire trade affecting Eire, are subjects which will cause Parliamentary draughtsmen difficulty.

At the same time Eire will probably review her own nationality law which, among other things, provides that if any citizen of Eire becomes a citizen of any other country he thereby loses his Eire citizenship.

Coining the New Saturday Shilling

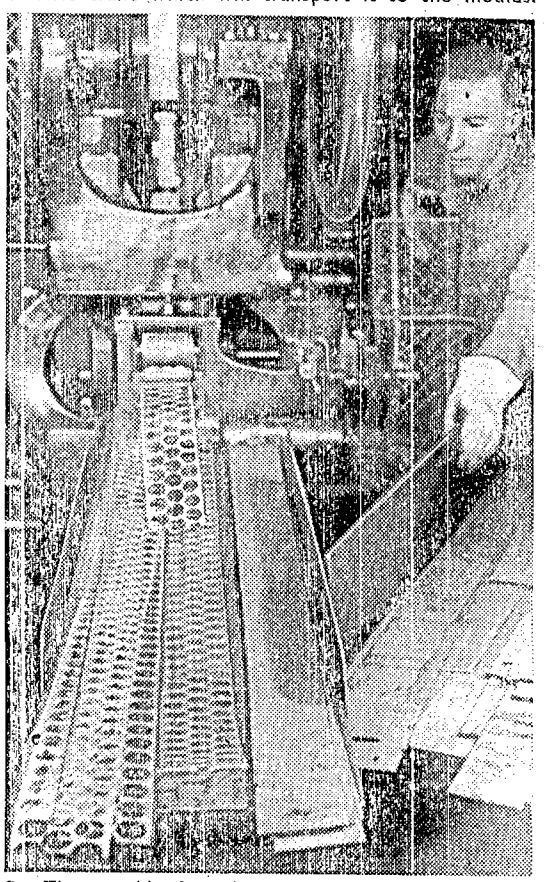


AT WORK IN THE MINT

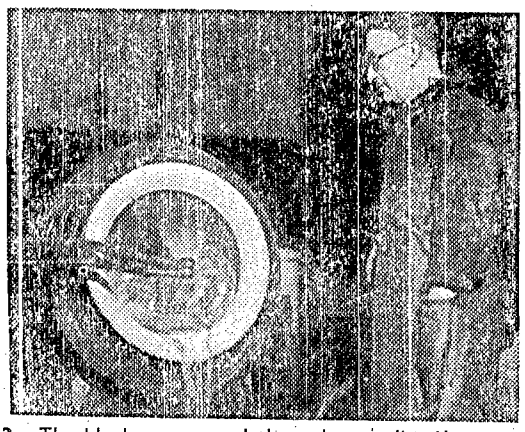
SINCE the early days of the 18th century all coins used in the United Kingdom have been minted in London. The present building of the Royal Mint on Tower Hill was erected in 1810, and since 1869 its Master has been the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Deputy Master and Controller of the Mint, however, is a civil servant. The Mint also makes coins for most of our Colonies, and for many foreign countries which have no mints of their own. Last year its total output was 600 million coins.



1. Metal ingots are melted down in crucibles. Here a white-hot crucible is being lifted from the fire by an electric crane which will transport it to the moulds.



2. The moulds form the molten metal into bars, after which they pass through machines which reduce them to long, thin strips. From these strips blank discs are punched of the same size as the coins to be made.



3. The blanks are passed through annealing drums to soften them for stamping. Then they are washed in an acid bath in a rotary earthenware vessel, as seen here.



4. After the blanks have been dried by hot air this press stamps them with the design that makes them coins of the realm. Caught between two discs at the bottom of a tube, both sides are stamped together.



5. After almost every stage of their production the bars or coins are weighed and examined. Here, having passed all their tests, newly-minted coins are being weighed for the last time. After this they are counted into bags, each containing £100 worth.

MAKING MONEY

C N Visits the Mint

THE Royal Mint has started making the 1949 coins we hope soon to hear jingling in our pockets. The chief change in their design is the omission of Ind Imp (Emperor of India).

Thousands of half-crowns and pennies have already been struck, and shortly coins of all denominations will be produced at the rate of a million a day.

Would you like to know how the coins are made?

Come with the C N then, behind the closely-guarded walls of the Royal Mint in London.

A hot blast of air greets us at the door of the melting room, The heat is stifling. Everywhere sparks are flying, and there is the clang of metal—the roar of machinery. In this room, some 100 feet long, are 17 furnaces.

Here the raw metal and alloy are placed in enormous fireclay containers suspended by cranes from the roof. There is a clang and a rush of heat and flame as the cover of a furnace is removed. The light from the furnace is blinding. The load of metal is gently lowered into place and the cover replaced.

Molten Metal

For two hours the metal lies in the blazing inferno, and then the Mint worker approaches again. His hands are protected by long gauntlets. The white-hot container is lifted, blazing from the furnace. It is tipped and a fiery stream of liquid metal streaks into the waiting mould.

In the nearby pressing room another Mint worker is engaged in rolling to strips of requisite thickness the bars of metal that are handed to him as soon as they are cool from the furnace. A worker then places each strip in a punch and cuts out a piece of metal the exact size of a coin. In a small glass case is a tiny pair of scales ready to receive the future shilling. The least fraction of a milligram out and the strip is rejected.

The accurate strips are passed to the next room where, to the thunder of the punches, the precious metal is cut in the shape of sixpences, shillings, florins, and half-crowns.

In the stamping room next door are the men who put the design on our coins. Each one of the bold array of machines here is fitted with its individual die, and before the coins enter it they have to be soaked in sulphuric acid and then washed and dried.

Testing Each Coin

In the weighing room are some 50 tiny automatic machines in glass cases on which the weight of each coin is tested.

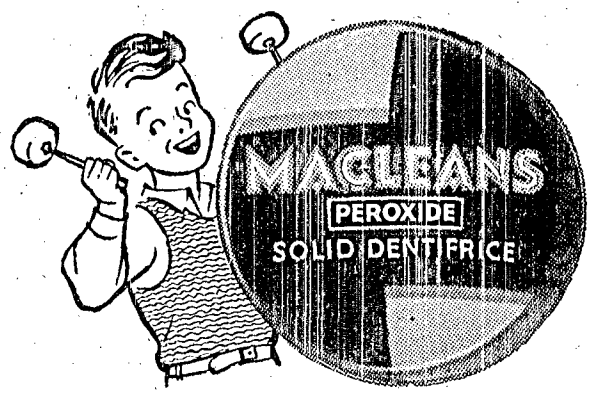
About one per cent of these millions of coins are rejected, but the rest pass on a broad leather belt before the most remarkable man in the Mint. Thousands of shining coins file past him every hour. Nimble of finger, keen of eye, he sits, darting his hand out there to eject what we think is a perfect coin, lifting another up to inspect it—throwing it back; it was all right, that one

In the corner of another room are two machines, counting coins into bags. Here, at last, is the final stage Each bag holds just £100 worth of coins, and a Mint worker is stacking hundreds of them into piles.

Such is the daily round in this money-making factory.

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Another Marie Celeste?

SHIPS OF MYSTERY

On a beach near Lisbon, not long ago, a 4000-ton ship was found stranded with all her lights on. The only living thing found in her was a cat. Of the crew there was no sign. People in Portugal have been asking if this is another Marie Celeste.

The story of the Marie Celeste was a great sea mystery of the last century. She was a brigantine, and on December 5, 1872, she was encountered by another ship about 130 miles off the coast of Portugal. The passing ship hove to when it was seen that there was no one on the Marie Celeste's decks. The Marie Celeste's sails were set and all was in order on board, but there was not a living soul in her.

Those who boarded her from the other ship found a slate on the captain's table on which were notes ready for copying into the log book. These showed that the ship had sailed 750 miles in the ten days after they had been jotted down. There had been ten people on board; not one of them was heard of again.

Pirates or Mutiny?

What had happened? Many theories were put forward. Some thought that the ship had been attacked by pirates, or that there had been a mutiny; but these theories were wrong, because money and everything else of value had been left behind.

The only clues were that one boat was missing, one of the hatchway covers was off, and a barrel of alcohol in the hold below had been broached. The cargo consisted of 1700 barrels of alcohol; and a theory is that one of these had exploded and blown off the cover of the hatchway; this accident, it is thought, might have made the crew think the whole cargo was about to explode, and in their panic they launched their boat, which might have capsized, drowning them.

No one will ever know for certain what happened to the ten unfortunate people in the old Marie Celeste.

WATCHING THE THERMOMETER

One person who does not mind cold weather is Mr E. G. Coggins, secretary of the National Skating Association; in fact, the colder it gets the better he likes it for, as the thermometer sinks below freezing point, his hopes of staging the Amateur Speed Skating Championship rise accordingly.

Whether the championship is to be held or not is always doubtful. Since 1900 it has taken place on only ten occasions; there was no race last year, and the 1947 race was the first for 13 years.

The race, which is over a mile and a half course, was held before the war in flooded parts of the Cambridge fenland, but owing to the large area reclaimed by drainage schemes the only possible course left is Bury Fen.

The entrants, as well as Mr Coggin, will be keeping an eye on the thermometer, for when the course is frozen sufficiently to permit the race to take place they will receive only about 12 hours' notice, given in the newspapers and broadcast over the radio.

COATS OFF

How to Get Things Done

At Alwoodley, a district of Leeds, the people have built for themselves a community centre, a hall in which they can play badminton and other games, and act in drama and comedy. Anxious ever since the war to have a hall of their own, Alwoodley people have had to place houses first. But when bricks were freed recently—the Ministry of Works said that, provided they gave their labour, they could have the bricks for their hall.

Long before this permission was given the site was cleared, and then the children of Alwoodley enjoyed themselves carrying relays of bricks to their fathers and mothers who built the hall.

Alwoodley showed what Yorkshire can do, but similar stories can be told of many other parts of the country; the people of Horley, in Surrey, for instance, have been building their community centre underneath the railway arches, and in south-east London, the members of the blitzed Dulwich Grove Congregational Church decided to rebuild it and create a community centre as well. Permission to rebuild was given on condition that half the work was done by voluntary labour, so men and women members worked together night after night preparing the ground for the professional builders who worked by day.

Now, says the pastor, the centre "is vibrant with healthy, happy life" for seven days each week and not just for a mere four hours on Sundays.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

As announced by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords recently Black Rod is resigning his post on the reassembly of Parliament. The present Black Rod is Admiral Sir Geoffrey Blake, and he has been handicapped by increasing deafness, which was the result of gun blast.

This official, whose full title is Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was appointed by Henry VIII to act as a link between both Houses of Parliament. The king laid it down that the holder "must be a gentleman famous in arms and in blood." Sir Geoffrey certainly satisfied the conditions for he had a distinguished naval career, and won the D S O at the Battle of Jutland.

When this official comes to the House of Commons to summon its members to the Lords, the door is barred against him, to be reopened when he has knocked three times with the gold lion which surmounts his black rod.

RARE EDITION

Printed on hand-made paper, a special edition has been made of 24 copies of the order of proceedings at the laying of the foundation stone of the new House of Commons. Of these, five copies have been bound in full morocco leather, and one has been accepted by the King. The other four have been presented to Mr Attlee, Mr Churchill, the Dean of Westminster, and the Speaker for the House of Commons library.

A more ordinary edition is available for the public.



THANKS GIRLS AND BOYS

Wouldn't you like to think that you had earned the thanks of some boy or girl whose childhood is not as happy as your own. Some boy or girl whose parents are not as kind as yours? We are sure you would. The best way to help is by joining the League of Pity.

Wear this fine badge and show you are helping to do a great work. Every member who gives 10/- is entitled to it. Why not write to the Director and ask him to send you full details?

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ALL SORTS OF EXPORTS

We hear much of the export of motor cars and other engineering products, but here are notes about a few of the multitude of "unconsidered trifles" which are helping Britain to buy the food which we must have from abroad.

FLINT-KNAPPING, a trade which has employed craftsmen at Brandon, Suffolk, for generations, is one of the little-known industries helping to increase our vital exports.

After almost dying out when the invention of percussion caps for firearms made flintlocks obsolete, it survived chiefly on orders from Abyssinia, West Africa, and Eastern Asia, where old-fashioned weapons are still used. Now this ancient industry is enjoying a boom.

In the United States the latest sporting craze is hunting, not with a modern rifle but with a muzzle-loading flintlock, for which Brandon only can supply the flints.

In 1946, the 6000 members of the National Muzzle-Loading Rifle Association ordered 20,000 tiny flints, and as enthusiasm for the sport increases flint-knappers are kept busy. Orders from West Africa and the Gold Coast reached the million mark last year, reports one firm which has made gunflints for centuries. A flint lasts for only about 20 shots, so demand should not slacken just yet.

Perhaps the most interesting of the little-known trades helping our export drive is that of bell-making. Because the 1200 British churches wrecked during the blitzes cannot be repaired just yet for lack of building materials, Britain's bell foundries are finding business abroad especially in America and Canada. Continental countries, too, are placing orders with Britain, for the world's best bells are made at Croydon, Loughborough, and Whitechapel.

Famous carillons are being sent here to be tuned, for the art of accurate tuning was lost for many years and was rediscovered only about half a century ago by Canon Simpson, of Sussex.

Little known by laymen in Britain is the art of sharpening surgeon's knives, although several countries make use of British skill. Only a few months ago Sydney hospital authorities, worried at the nine months' delay caused when knives were sent by sea, decided to use the airway and get them back in a fortnight. No one in Australia has the right instruments for restoring the edges of these knives.

One of Britain's strangest exports is also one of her newest. After many tedious experiments a Corby man has succeeded in making a reed-pipe with which modern Pied Pipers can lure rats from their holes.

His pipes produce supersonic notes which, undetectable by the human ear, resemble rats' love-calls. They have proved so useful that they are being exported to North and South America, and also to Holland and Belgium.

Even woad, the dye which the Ancient Britons daubed on their bodies to terrify their enemies, occasionally has an export value nowadays. Not long ago Chicago surgeons ordered some, believing that, injected into the blood, it might be an antidote to the effects of exposure to atomic rays.

BEDTIME CORNER

Surprise in the Dark

JEAN danced gaily into the room.

"Mummie!" she cried. "Can I go to the pantomime on Saturday? Anne's Mummie is taking Anne and she has invited me. I do so want to go."

Mummie smiled. "I'm afraid that's impossible," she said. "You see, you *are* going to a pantomime on Saturday. Daddie has already bought the tickets and we were going to surprise you."

Jean was glad that she was going to the pantomime; all the same, she was terribly disappointed she could not go with her friend.

The longest week Jean had ever known finally came to an end, and they set off for the theatre. They arrived early and took their seats and waited for the show to begin.

After a while the lights went down and the curtain rose. But the seats next to Jean were empty. Then, just as the stage was in complete darkness, three figures groped their way into them.

Then lights went on, and Jean glanced sideways. There—of all people—was Anne! In excited whispers Anne told how they had been delayed.

So Jean was able to see the pantomime with Anne after all.

THE MOLE

THE mole's a creature very
smooth and slick,
She digs in the dirt, but twill
not on her stick.
Earth's the mole's element,
she can't abide
To be above ground, dirt heaps
are her pride,
Poor, silly mole, that thou
shouldst love to be,
Where thou, nor sun, nor
moon, nor stars can see.

John Bunyan

A Prayer

THANK you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything.

"LIGHT" FUN AROUND THE SNOWMAN



Phosphate Islands

HELP TO INCREASE OUR FOOD SUPPLY

WHAT amounts to the complete purchase of a remote island in the Indian Ocean by Australia and New Zealand became a fact of law on January 1. The island is Christmas Island, a British possession of about 60 square miles, fourteen hundred miles from Fremantle in Western Australia.

Australia and New Zealand have long had their eyes on Christmas Island because it has 30 million tons of phosphate on it—practically all the land weight of the island's crust, and the phosphate is valuable for Australian and New Zealand farmers.

To buy Christmas Island is to cost £2,750,000, and it will give the right to the two countries to have the exclusive use of the phosphate which will be taken direct to Western Australia and prepared for the farms. This is a much shorter journey than that from Nauru and Ocean Island in the Pacific, which have the world's biggest phosphate deposits.

When the Japanese occupied Nauru and Ocean Island they destroyed much of the loading gear which transports the valuable phosphate from the edge of the islands' coral reef to the ships. Hundreds of Pacific islanders volunteered to work once more, and a large batch of Chinese workers came from Hong Kong. In 1949 the huge cantilever arm of iron which reaches out to the ships moored off the islands will be in full working order again, picking up 8000 tons a day. By 1950 it is hoped that Nauru and Ocean Islands will be sending to Australia and New Zealand 1,250,000 tons of phosphate annually and so help the production of the world's food.

THE VOICE IN THE CHIMNEY

AN amusing story comes from Scotland with the warning that we should always be careful about strange voices heard in the chimney.

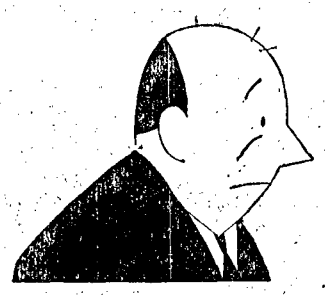
A young man one day was sitting by the fireside quietly reading when he thought he heard a voice from the chimney calling "Tee-hee." At first he thought it must be imagination and went on reading.

But the voice went on insistently calling, "Tee-hee. Tee-hee." This time there could be no mistake. It did come from the chimney. So the young man called up the chimney in answer, "Tee-hee."

Before the echoes of his voice had died away he received the shock of his life, for a great mass of soot, stones, and water swept down upon him.

Hearing his shouts, members of the family rushed in and then ran upstairs to probe the mystery. Near the roof they found an officer of the Fire Service.

Apparently the brigade had been called to deal with a chimney which had been on fire in the tenement, and while trying to find the right one to clean among a maze of chimneys the officer had stationed a colleague inside the building to listen while he called "Tee-hee" down one chimney after another. When he heard the answering "Tee-hee" he at once poured down the stones and water which he had at hand.



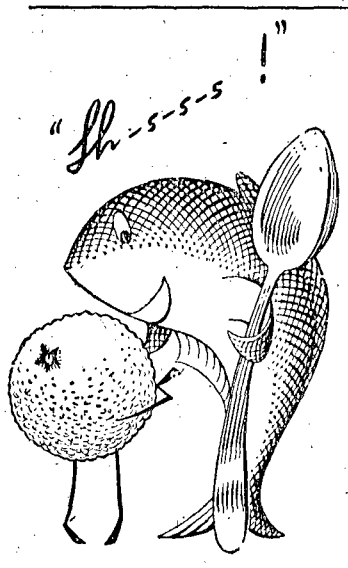
He's touchy, liverish, "misunderstood."

He needs a course of Benger's Food

When your digestion is out of order, practise what is known as Rest-Therapy — *rest* your digestion for a while and take a course of Benger's Food at night. "Bengers" is rich nourishment, pre-digested. It soon soothes and strengthens the digestion back to normal.

Keep a tin of BENGER'S *in the house. From 2/- a tin at all Chemists and Grocers.*

"Bengers" is a regd. trade mark of Benger's Ltd., Holmes Chapel, Cheshire
14/P



"This is where we can do good by stealth. These children have not had Haliborange before, so be on your best behaviour . . . There, I knew they would like it, now we shall see them grow strong and sturdy—just look at those smiles—they are asking for more too—it is nice to be liked isn't it?"

Haliborange

THE NICEST WAY OF TAKING HALIBUT LIVER OIL

In bottles, 3/2, from Chemists only
Made by Allen & Hanburys Ltd.

1137E

HEALTH IS NATIONAL INSURANCE

and with our Youth Organisations we are doing our utmost to build up our boys and girls for the place they must take later as responsible citizens. Will you please help us? We sorely need your aid. Address:
The Rev. RONALD F. W. BOLLOM, Supt., **THE EAST END MISSION** (Founded 1885), **583x Commercial Road, Stepney, London, E.1.**



HERE IS A LOVELY BOOK FOR YOU TO KEEP AND TREASURE

In this 24 art page book are sixty-seven of the loveliest photographs of Princess Margaret from babyhood to the present day, together with interesting text and captions, providing the most up-to-date pictorial record of her life. You can get a copy at most bookshops, stores, newsagents, etc., price 2/6. If you have difficulty you can send for a copy for 2/9 (post free) from the publishers.

Other attractive, pictorial books at the same price include Their Majesties' Silver Wedding Day, Princess Elizabeth's Wedding Day, Mr. Churchill—his life in pictures, and, shortly to be published, a new book to commemorate the birth of Prince Charles of Edinburgh.

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The Bran Tub

EXPECTATIONS

Mr Jones had bought a new car.

"Did you get a good allowance for the old one you gave in part payment?" he was asked.

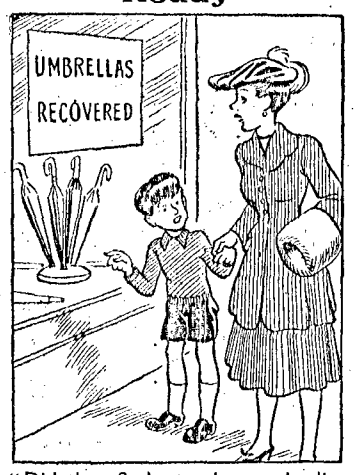
"Not as much as I expected; but then I didn't expect to."

What is this Town?

In the ring but not in the arc,
In the gloom but not in the dark,
In the sands but not in the shore,
In the hills but not in the tor.
In the goal but not in the net,
In the dog but not in the pet,
In the law but not in the order,
Now name this city over the border.

Answer next week

Roddy



"Did they find your lost umbrella, Mummie?"

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Safety Device. From the Bigwoods came loud calls of excited Pheasants.

"Perhaps a fox is after them?" suggested Ann.

"They're safe, they are off the ground," answered her brother Don, catching sight of several "longtails" high in the bushes.

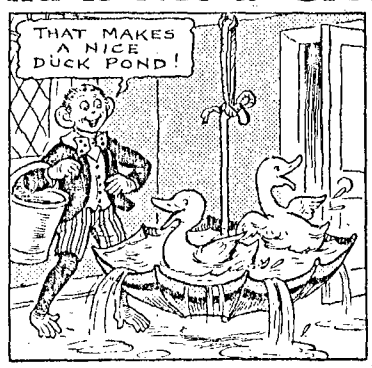
"I wonder if they ever tumble down when they are asleep?" Ann remarked.

"No, Ann," said Farmer Gray. "Reynard does not get food so easily. Birds can sleep quite safely while perching. The reason that they do not fall is that when a bird lets its weight down the muscles of the feet automatically tighten, making the grip more secure."

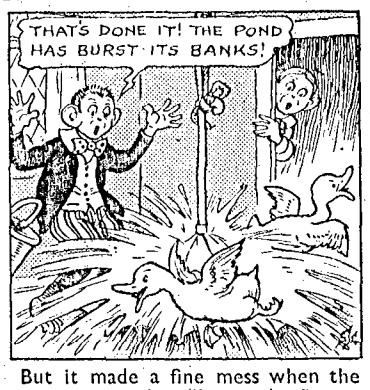
Jacko's Pond is Not a Great Success



Jacko had a warm welcome for two unusual visitors.



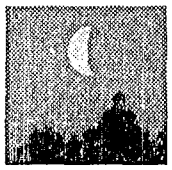
"A fine job," he chuckled as he surveyed the "pond" he had filled.



But it made a fine mess when the water cascaded all over the floor.

Other Worlds

In the evening Uranus is in the south and Saturn is low in the east. In the morning Venus is low in the south-west and Saturn is in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon at 6 o'clock on Saturday morning, January 22.



COLOUR SCHEME

The traffic lights were showing red;
The car screeched to a halt.
The learner-driver smiled and said:
"Well, that was without fault."

The lights assumed a yellow hue
And then to green did change;
But still the little car stood there.
The "Bobbie" thought this strange.

He crossed the road with measured tread,
With one hand on his bike.
"What's wrong?" he asked.
"Have we not got
The colours that you like?"

Odd Arithmetic

Can you find out how this sum is worked? Add all the figures from 1 to 9, and from the total take away 50, leaving one-third of the original total.

Answer next week

WISECRACK

Tell your friends that you will show them something which they have never seen before and can never see again. If they doubt you, take a nut and crack it, show them the kernel, and eat it!

SILENCE

Jimmy was sitting next to the visitor, a rather prominent figure in local political life, and, wondering how to start the conversation, the small boy at last remarked:

"You seem rather quiet, Mr Smith. I have heard Daddie say that you were the big noise in our town."

Catching!

Here is a simple little question that will probably catch many of your friends.

Tell someone that a doctor has a brother who is a dentist, and then ask the question, "What relation is the doctor to the dentist?"

Many people will answer at once, "Why, brother, of course." Whereupon you will explain that the doctor was a woman, and so was a sister of the dentist.

EVERYDAY DIET

What tables do we cook and and eat?
This a very easy feat.
"Tell me the answer now," you say?
Why, vegetables, every day!

Maxim to Memorise

Forget others' faults by remembering your own.

Children's Hour

B B C Programmes from Wednesday, January 19, to Tuesday, January 25.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 The Cruise of the Toytown Belle (No 1). 5.30 Folk Songs. *North*, 5.0 Children of Other Lands—Malaya; The Three Semis; Film News.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Stormy Petrel (3). *Midland*, 5.0 Catch that Spider! (3); Piano Duets; Looking at a Pool—a talk. *Scottish*, 5.0 Songs. 5.15 Behind the Waterfall (3). *Welsh*, 5.30 How Wales was Made—a discussion; Welshman's Window—a talk.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Snakes and Snake Charmers—a talk. 5.15 Golden Pavements (3). *N. Ireland*, 5.0 to 5.15 Nature Diary.

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Coloured Coons; The House that Ran Away; Looking After Your Pets. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 The Esker in the Bog—a talk; Chuckie—a story; Animal Stories; Newry Fireside Singers. *Scottish*, 5.0 We'd like to Broadcast. *Welsh*, 5.0 Isn't the Old Rooster Vain; The Rhyl Silver Band; Souvenirs of the Boxing Ring. *West*, 5.0 Clara Chuff (4); Songs; The Missing Bicycle.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Matthew and the Red Squirrel; Choir of Parkfields Cedars Grammar School for Girls, Derby; A Bible Story; Piano. *N. Ireland*, 5.0-5.30 From Different Angles; Songs. *North*, 5.0 Wandering with Nomad; Concert Preview.

MONDAY, 5.0 Bitty and the Bears (4). 5.15 Two Pianos. 5.35 A London Bus-Driver. 5.50 Records. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 The King of Ireland's Son—a play; Songs. *North*, 5.0 Sing Song; The Seagull Who Was Afraid; Subject and Object.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Purrin's Dinner—a story; Ayr Academy Choir.

WHY, INDEED?

Sammy Simple had fallen on the icy road and as he picked himself up he was heard to mutter: "I can never understand why, when water freezes, it should always freeze slippery side up."

Agreed

Snip: If my boss does not take back what he said just now I shall leave this job.
Snap: What did he say?
Snip: You're fired.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Dial The Quotation
The moving finger writes and having writ moves on.

Who Are They?
Marconi, Marshall, Marlowe, Marryat.

M	E	R	R	Y	■	A	S	S
A	P	E	■	O	F	T	E	N
T	O	N	G	U	E	■	T	O
■	D	E	A	R	E	R	■	E
N	E	W	T	■	L	E	E	K
O	■	S	H	I	E	L	D	■
I	S	■	E	N	R	A	G	E
S	H	I	R	T	■	T	E	A
E	Y	E	■	O	V	E	R	T





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